

Submitter: Janet Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Testimony Opposing HB3991 & HB3992 – Oregon Transportation Funding Bills

Submitted by Janet Brown, Tualatin, OR

Chair, members of the committee—

I'm submitting this testimony as a single mother to an adult son with autism, and as a citizen who believes deeply in transparent, accountable governance. I strongly oppose HB3991 and HB3992, the transportation funding bills introduced during this special session.

I'm alarmed not only by the content of these bills—but by the process being used to push them through. The House finally achieved quorum at 9:00 p.m. on Friday night, during a holiday weekend, and immediately adopted the rules. Votes are now being scheduled for Sunday and Monday, when most Oregonians are with family or away from the news cycle.

This is not how democracy should work. Sneaking through massive tax hikes—\$5.8 billion worth—under cover of night and distraction is a breach of public trust.

Let's be clear about what HB3991 does:

- Raises the gas tax by 6 cents per gallon
- Increases registration fees by \$42 and title fees by \$139
- Doubles the payroll tax for public transit
- Mandates a per-mile road usage charge for electric and hybrid vehicles
- Repeals the mandatory toll program
- Begins taxing diesel fuel at the pump
- Revises the weight-mile tax formula
- Requires performance audits of ODOT

HB3992 outlines how this revenue will be distributed—but it does nothing to address the systemic failures in project delivery and fiscal management.

We've seen this before. In 2017, Oregon passed a \$5.3 billion transportation package. That money was supposed to fund major projects like the Rose Quarter and I-205 Abernethy Bridge. Instead, we got delays, ballooning costs, and broken promises. The Abernethy Bridge alone tripled in cost—from \$248 million to over \$815 million.

Now, instead of fixing what's broken, the state is asking for more—while hiding the process from public view.

I urge you to vote NO on HB3991 and HB3992. Oregon families deserve better. And we deserve to be heard in daylight, not sidelined in the shadows.

Thank you.