

Submitter: Jane Herb
On Behalf Of: Oregon taxpayers with a right to representation
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Please vote NO on this Bill, as re-written. NO new or increased taxes for ODOT. NO to making the Governor the one who appoints the head of ODOT, taking additional power that is already far too consolidated in the hands of the supermajority. Oregonians are suffering under high taxes and crises created by a one-party rule that makes poor policy and budget decisions.

We've seen a \$1B+ accounting error in this department. We continue to see projects that far exceed costs, along with virtue-signaling boondoggles, while regular maintenance of our roads is neglected. Now, this Bill simply asks for more money and power, without making any changes to how this money must be spent. We can't afford this. We do not want ODOT essential workers to lose their livelihoods, and it is up to this body to be responsible with the existing funds--remove any extraneous, non-essential activities from ODOT, keep essential workers, and do the critical work of maintaining our roads.

As I watched testimony this week, the people in favor were ODOT employees, other governments that stand to gain revenue, and companies that financially benefit from government contracts--while people who pay taxes and have no financial gain from this Bill were solidly against more taxes. We cannot afford any more taxes--especially when there are solutions to issues that don't involve simply taking more money from hard-working Oregonians.

I'm also AGAINST any extra fees or schemes to charge per mile so that EV drivers will supposedly "pay their fair share." Oregonians who have done what they feel is making a conscientious choice to purchase a non-gas vehicle and saving themselves money on gas, are now being asked to pay in yet another way. People need to be able to make choices that help them afford the cost to live--and if government simply taxes them further, it takes away the ability to determine their own fate and take care of themselves and their families.

Please make the right decision for all Oregonians and vote NO on any new or increased taxes or fees. If there is any legislation to come out of this special session, it needs to be that ODOT must be audited by an independent agency, with the goal of a restructured agency and budget. Essential work must continue, while all waste eliminated.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jane Herb
Keizer