

Submitter: Catherine Camp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

Testimony Opposing Oregon's Proposed Transportation Tax Increase

Submitted to the Oregon State Legislature

Special Session, August 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I strongly oppose the proposed transportation tax increases, including gas tax hikes and vehicle fees, as outlined for this special session. While Oregon's infrastructure needs attention, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has demonstrated a troubling pattern of mismanagement that undermines public trust in how these funds would be used.

ODOT's recent decision to lay off frontline workers—those who maintain our roads and ensure public safety—while preserving management positions and expanding non-essential roles, such as DEI initiatives, is unacceptable. These priorities do not reflect the needs of Oregonians, who rely on safe, well-maintained transportation systems. Adding financial burdens on families and small businesses through new taxes, without addressing ODOT's inefficiencies, is unjust and shortsighted.

The proposed taxes will disproportionately harm working-class Oregonians, who are already stretched thin by rising costs. Instead of raising taxes, I urge the legislature to demand accountability from ODOT, prioritize frontline workers, and explore alternative funding solutions, such as reallocating existing budgets or leveraging federal grants.

Please reject these tax increases until meaningful reforms ensure our tax dollars are spent wisely and equitably. Oregon deserves better.

Sincerely,

Catherine Camp