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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Legislators,

Volume's of Oregonians have reached out in opposition against increasing taxes and fees. In fact, during LC2, 97% of testimony was in opposition of the governor's proposal. Oregonians are not being heard, nor represented. This funding could not be reached during regular session nor should it be considered via special session. Oregonian's are losing trust in these processes as well as losing trust in our large state agencies. Look at this special session for example. Why was is scheduled for a holiday weekend? Why did it take the congregation until 8:30 PM on a Friday night to make quorum? Why did one proposal turn into two separate bills? This is not trust. This is the governor and legislation delaying, confusing and wearing down worried Oregonians who want to be heard. Using late nights, holiday weekends and Sundays is a cruel and snide way of achieving goals within legislation by distracting us and burning out our momentum. Those who did their due diligence with provided testimony whether for or against this proposal during LC2 have now been told that was a waste of time. This is a sneaky trick to make people believe they were heard and hope they won't show up for the new bills like I am in this written testimony.

ODOT has proven over and over to be fiscally irresponsible, driven by poor policy and decision making. Chasing the wrong money and not taking care of core services. The best thing that could happen would be let ODOT fail and rebuild the department to be a clean and efficient government agency. Go back to core services and remove the non-essential. Its time to save Oregonians' money instead of asking for more of it. We are drowning in tax in this state.

I recognize there are provisions in the bill to audit the department. What are the repercussions for poor fiscal performance? Why haven't reprimands, punishments and adjustments been made already with the department even admitting they knew a "fiscal cliff" was on the horizon.

Stop asking more from the tax payer. Live within your means just like we do, whether that be our personal finances or businesses.

Scott Zielinski  
Farmer