

Submitter: Tara McLaughlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

My name is Tara McLaughlin, owner of Ayla Mac Hair Company in Beaverton, Oregon. I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 3992.

Why HB 3992 harms small businesses and working Oregonians

HB 3992, like HB 3991, seeks to raise additional revenue through new or increased taxes and fees. While the details differ, the outcome is the same: higher costs for families and small businesses already struggling with rising expenses.

For small business owners like me, every increase in payroll, vehicle, or operating costs directly reduces our ability to reinvest in our employees and clients. These added costs will force many small businesses to raise prices, cut services, or worse—close their doors altogether. And when businesses can't sustain themselves here, they leave Oregon, taking jobs and livelihoods with them. That means more Oregonians out of work, and more families pushed to the edge.

Process concerns and public trust

This bill, much like HB 3991, is being pushed through at the last minute, in a special session scheduled over a holiday weekend. Rushing complex legislation through in this way is unfair to Oregonians who deserve time to understand and respond to proposals that affect their daily lives and financial security.

HB 3992 already echoes a pattern: when measures fail in regular session, they are brought back quietly in special session, in hopes that the public won't notice. This is not democracy in action; it is process manipulation. Oregonians deserve better.

Accountability first: audit and transparency

Before any new taxes or fees are passed—whether through HB 3991, HB 3992, or any other measure—the state must first show accountability. A full, independent audit of the state budget should be conducted. And specifically, ODOT's spending practices must be made fully transparent. Until the public sees line-by-line accountability for how taxpayer dollars are used, there is no justification for demanding more.

Whom legislators serve

I want to remind this body that state representatives and the Governor work for the people of Oregon. It is not your role to impose rushed, hidden tax increases that benefit political agendas. It is your responsibility to safeguard fiscal responsibility, ensure transparency, and protect the livelihoods of the people you represent.

What to do instead

1. Require independent, transparent audits of state finances—especially ODOT—before raising revenue.
2. Address inefficiencies first: cut waste, improve project delivery, and prioritize existing funds for maintenance.
3. Respect democratic process: allow open public testimony and full debate in regular session.
4. Protect small businesses and jobs: do not drive employers out of Oregon with more taxes and fees that hurt employees and families alike.

Until these steps are taken, HB 3992 is yet another example of the wrong bill at the wrong time. Please vote NO on HB 3992 and return with a transparent, accountable plan that truly serves Oregon's people and economy.

Respectfully,
Tara McLaughlin
Owner, Ayla Mac Hair Company
Beaverton, Oregon