

Submitter: Mary Conlon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Dear Oregon Legislative Representative,

As a constituent and Oregon resident from McMinnville this letter expresses opposition to new taxes and fees proposed in the upcoming special session for transportation funding. With the high cost of living already affecting Oregon families and businesses, alternative solutions to address the budget deficit in the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are encouraged.

While the need to fund road maintenance and transportation projects is recognized, proposals that increase the cost of living place an undue burden on the community. Specific concern is expressed regarding increased gas taxes, higher vehicle registration fees, mandatory road usage charges and payroll taxes.

These increases would directly impact my family's budget, making it more difficult to afford everyday expenses. The cumulative effect of these financial burdens on residents should be considered.

This tax is estimated to cost the average household \$500 a year or \$42 per month. This is just not realistic in today's economic climate. Every Oregonian is facing rising costs: housing, insurance, utilities, groceries, medical, childcare, gas... nothing has gone down. Credit card debt has skyrocketed. This is not sustainable.

I know several people, who have jobs, but are still one paycheck away from living in their car. The \$42 a month cost of this bill may well push them over the edge. Instead of passing new taxes, other options for filling ODOT's budget hole are encouraged. A solution can be found through more efficient use of existing funds, a reallocation of state budget, or a different revenue-generating approach.

Constituents should be listened to, and any new taxes or fees in the upcoming special session should be opposed. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Mary Conlon

McMinnville, OR 97128

