

Submitter: Melissa Hill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melissa Hill, and I serve as a City Council member in Estacada, Oregon. I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 3991. While I support the goal of improving our transportation system, this bill places heavy costs on working Oregonians and weakens trust in government without providing the accountability and fairness our communities deserve.

HB 3991 proposes new tax and fee increases, including raising the gas tax by six cents per gallon, adding \$42 to vehicle registration fees, increasing title fees by \$139, and imposing an additional \$30 registration fee on electric vehicles. It also establishes a per-mile road usage charge for hybrids and EVs. These costs will be felt most by working families, rural drivers, and low-income residents who depend on their vehicles every day.

The bill also doubles the statewide transit payroll tax, adding costs to both employers and employees at a time when many households are already struggling. Meanwhile, there is no guarantee that small cities and counties will receive the level of funding they need to address local road and safety projects. The state may see increased revenue, but local governments, who are directly responsible for maintaining the streets, sidewalks, and intersections people use daily, risk being left behind.

Another concern is that HB 3991 changes how decisions on future transportation funding are made, requiring supermajority votes and shifting authority in ways that can diminish the public's voice. People in our communities show up, work hard, pay their taxes, and deserve to know their voices still matter in shaping the future of transportation policy. Weakening their role only deepens frustration and distrust.

Finally, while HB 3991 includes oversight measures such as audits, these do not go far enough to ensure that ODOT delivers projects on time, on budget, and with transparency. Raising taxes and fees should never come before strong, measurable accountability.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 3991 as written. Instead, I encourage the Legislature to consider alternatives that phase in modest and responsible revenue increases, provide guaranteed and equitable funding for cities and counties, protect low-income households and rural drivers, and strengthen transparency and

accountability in transportation spending.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Melissa Hill

Estacada City Council Member