

Submitter: Rebecca Routson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Why is the description of the bill “Directs the Division of Audits to conduct performance audits of the Department of Transportation” this is the transportation bill that “keeps services and maintenance” by increasing the gas tax, registration fees, among a slue of other things correct?

I’m going to focus on one section: Section 12’s which gives the provision allowing ODOT to automatically adjust fees starting in 2030. This hands too much power to unelected officials, reducing legislative oversight and risking unchecked increases and probably doesn’t align with the Oregon constitution regarding unelected boards/departments setting rates of tax. Finally, the focus on maintenance over new infrastructure fails to deliver tangible benefits to justify the added costs.

I urge the committee to explore alternatives, such as reallocating existing funds, to address ODOT’s needs without further taxing Oregonians. Thank you for considering my testimony.

-Rebecca Routson