

Submitter: Laura Duncan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Good evening,

I am writing to oppose the transportation tax increase. Before the state demands Oregon citizens to provide more revenue to the state, I would like ODOT to complete an audit of the funding they are already receiving. Reallocate the funds spent on equity and higher paid positions to maintain the actual workers and get projects completed. Multiple counties had to make budget cuts this year, it's time for ODOT to do the same.

I am for a 'per mile' tax on electric vehicles since they are currently not contributing much to ongoing maintenance after their purchase/registration fees. But do not increase the gas tax. Oregon is penalizing drivers of gasoline vehicles, while pushing citizens to purchase electric vehicles (yet Oregon doesn't have maintenance revenue in place for all these electric vehicles on the road). I don't appreciate the government using taxes to push behavior change, not all of us can afford an electric vehicle, and personally, I think they are WORSE on the environment due to how the batteries are made and disposed of.

I do not want the government forcing us to ride public transit or buy electrical by taxing those who use gasoline vehicles

I am against the governor determining who should be the director of ODOT, there should be standard recruitment and disciplinary actions taken regarding that position. The governor (present and future) should not have appointing power for that role.

That being said, with all the mishandling of funds, why has there not been action taken against ODOT to hold them accountable?

In summary, stop depending on the federal government for revenue, stop wasting money giving everyone hand outs and create a budget that is focused on productive work that we can see (out on the roads and not in the offices).

Speaking of offices, if staff aren't going to work from the office, sell the building, commit to them working remotely and don't waste money on an empty building. Downsize. (Non-tax option #1)

There are so many other options than raising taxes or firing the ODOT workforce. Be

better stewards with the funds they already have.

And if you need ideas for revenue, how about we finally consider a sales tax (in conjunction with LOWER property taxes and payroll taxes) Do you know that 25% of my paycheck is taken out for taxes, and then you add all your the specialty taxes when we purchase things. Oregon is overtaxed and not seeing the benefit of it, all the while bragging that we don't have sales tax... if we just had a small sales tax (and reduced existing taxes) then everyone who lives here is contributing to the revenue of the state. That's more fair than just taking the taxes from the middle class, and homeowners. (Revenue option #2)

See, I don't want targeted taxes for special topics anymore. Stop the bandaids, stop the waste.

At the beginning of the Leg Session, there was something said about how Oregon was going to ensure it's citizens could afford to live here, we need to hold you to that now. It's so expensive here, people are leaving, it's getting really hard, and we can't take more taxes.

Stop blaming the federal government, this is Oregon's mess and the outcome of giving all our resources away to every homeless person being shipped to us.

Speaking of resources, how about we start harvesting our timber, so the state can get revenue from that? Another option instead of adding a gas tax or increasing registration fees... (Revenue option #3)

I have provided three other alternatives to what you are proposing, go do the numbers, and come back to the short session with a better proposal, one that is thought through, planned, and doesn't cost tax payers too much. (That means you are planning cuts in other areas.)