

Thomas Dole

Roseburg, OR Resident

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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Thomas A. Dole, and I'm a lifelong Oregonian. I'm here today because I'm deeply concerned about the direction our state is heading—especially with the proposed \$5 billion transportation tax package.

This proposal is out of touch with the realities facing everyday Oregonians. Families are struggling to put food on the table, and yet this plan asks them to shoulder even more financial burden. A 55.4% increase in the title fee, a 6-cent hike in the gas tax, and a doubling of the payroll tax—these are not just numbers. They're hits to the wallets of working people.

The private sector adjusts when budgets tighten—layoffs, restructuring, belt-tightening. Government should be no different. Instead of expanding spending, we should be evaluating where efficiencies can be found. Programs that have grown unchecked, including certain DEI initiatives, deserve scrutiny. We must ensure that every dollar spent serves all Oregonians—not just political agendas.

What's more troubling is the erosion of democratic oversight. Section 12 of this bill allows unelected bureaucrats to raise fuel taxes and truck fees without a vote. That's not just bad policy—it's a dangerous precedent that undermines the constitutional requirement for a 3/5ths vote to raise taxes.

Even those who embraced electric vehicles—encouraged by the state's green initiatives—are now being penalized with a road usage charge. It's a bait-and-switch that betrays public trust.

This package is not about transportation—it's about taxation. And it's being pushed at a time when Oregonians can least afford it.

I urge you: reject this proposal. Let's work together to find smarter, fairer solutions. Let's Keep Oregon Great.

Thank you.