

Submitter: Colinda Lennox
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Oregon Government, NO Means NO!

To the elected Members of the Oregon Legislature,

We, the people of Oregon, have spoken NO means NO. We do not consent to this new tax bill. It is fundamentally unconstitutional and a violation of the trust we, the voters, have placed in you as our elected representatives.

As Oregon citizens, we entrust you to uphold the values of representation and consent. You are meant to serve us, the people not to bypass our voices. Unfortunately, what we are witnessing now feels more like taxation without representation and a breach of the public trust. This is a direct violation of your oath of office to uphold and protect the Constitution.

Recent public opinion reflects a clear and overwhelming stance against this tax. A KATU News poll found that 82% of Oregonians oppose new taxes, and over 3,400 written testimonies submitted in response to this bill were 97% opposed. The will of the people is undeniable.

We, the people, have spoken. We do not consent.

NO MORE TAXES.

Historically, Oregon has recognized the essential principle that no tax can be levied without the express consent of the people. As stated in a 1845 resolution passed by the Oregon legislature, it was made clear that:

“This house has no right to levy a tax of any kind without the consent of the free voters of this territory previously obtained.”

This principle is further enshrined in the Oregon Constitution, specifically in Article I, Bill of Rights, Section 32, which states:

“No tax or duty shall be imposed without the consent of the people or their representatives in the Legislative Assembly.”

This reinforces the fundamental right of the people to determine the laws that govern

them, including the power to consent to taxes. The framers of Oregon's Constitution understood the importance of a government by consent, ensuring that no government body could impose taxes without the explicit approval of the people or their duly elected representatives.

By advancing this tax bill against the will of the people, you are not only ignoring the clear majority opposition but also violating the constitutional rights of every Oregonian. This action undermines the very principles upon which this state was founded and betrays the public trust.

If the legislature chooses to ignore the voices of the people, it will only deepen the erosion of trust between elected officials and the public. This is not just a tax issue this is a crisis of legitimacy for the state government.

I urge you to stand with the people of Oregon. Respect our voices, uphold the Constitution, and reject this bill. We the people have said NO, and we constitutionally demand that you uphold our wishes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.