

Submitter: Dylan Pakes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3991 and HB 3992, which together represent another round of tax increases and expanded spending authority for ODOT that Oregonians simply cannot afford.

HB 3991 proposes raising the gas tax, increasing title and registration fees, and doubling the statewide transit payroll tax. For years, Oregon families and businesses have been asked to shoulder higher and higher costs, yet our state has only become less affordable. The reality is that Oregon families are already struggling with skyrocketing costs of housing, groceries, utilities, and fuel. This proposal would add even more financial strain and drive more families and businesses out of our state—continuing a troubling trend of Oregonians leaving because it has become unaffordable to live here.

But the damage does not stop there. HB 3992 ensures that the money raised by HB 3991 will be funneled into ODOT's administrative spending. In other words, instead of going directly to repairing roads, reducing congestion, or delivering tangible improvements for taxpayers, this bill increases ODOT's authority to spend more on itself—its administrative functions and bureaucracy—while leaving Oregonians with the bill. This is irresponsible and unacceptable.

What makes these proposals especially troubling is ODOT's track record. For years, taxpayers have seen gas taxes and fees go up, yet our roads are still in disrepair, traffic congestion worsens, and promises of better management remain unfulfilled. Leadership at ODOT has failed to deliver real results despite the billions of dollars it has already collected. The agency has not earned the trust of the public to manage even more funds, and HB 3991 and HB 3992 double down on this failure by rewarding inefficiency with even more taxpayer money.

Before asking for another dime from hard-working Oregonians, there must be a full, independent audit of ODOT's spending and operations. Taxpayers deserve to know where their money has gone, how it has been managed, and why results have not improved despite repeated funding increases. Until there is transparency and accountability, new taxes and expanded administrative budgets are completely unjustifiable.

This is not just about taxes—it is about trust. Oregonians have been asked to pay more and more, and what we have received in return is higher costs of living, failing

infrastructure, and more bureaucracy. HB 3991 and HB 3992 represent another step down the wrong path. They threaten our way of life, they accelerate the affordability crisis in Oregon, and they will push more people and businesses out of our state.

We need leadership that prioritizes accountability, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility—not endless tax hikes and bigger bureaucracies. I urge you to reject HB 3991 and HB 3992 and instead focus on real solutions that provide relief to taxpayers and demand accountability from ODOT.