

Submitter: Matt Krabacher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

I live in rural NE Oregon and very much demand that you provide public services like public transit and bike friendly infrastructure. You may be hearing that some people do not feel that Oregonians can bear more tax increases to pay for these services. I live around these folks. They will never see you as not taxing them. And you will have to tax them anyway just to keep basic road maintenance up, so you might as well create a tax regime that also gives them something to make it apparent that you ARE, in fact, spending tax revenue on something that benefits them.

Because out here, we just see services, like hospitals and public transit systems, disappearing and taxes going up anyway.

If you create a transit plan that minimizes tax rate increases, you will win no allies. They will still be unhappy. And they will still perceive you as taxing them and getting nothing in return. They'll perceive this because it will be true.

Instead, you might as well improve Oregonians' lives and build new infrastructure that can support us into the future. That encourages us to be happy, safe and healthy. That enables efficient and accessible transit options for all Oregonians. Not just the wealthy ones that you are exposed to. Not just the ones that have access to ride share services and can afford them anyway.

Failing to deliver any improvement in our transit system towards a more sustainable and equitable future, would be a huge failure of governance. Please, pass a transit package that does something besides just raise taxes and maintains our unsustainable system a little longer. Give us something. Make Oregon better. Have a spine and build for a positive future.