

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 3992

Submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation Funding

Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2025 Special Session

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in SUPPORT of HB 3992.

This bill is a shining example of why the Oregon Legislative Assembly deserves admiration: nobody, and I mean nobody, can transform taxpayers' blood, sweat, and tears into an all-you-can-eat government buffet quite like this. Truly, it's an art form.

HB 3992 is another brilliant exercise in feeding government fat cats who aren't just greedy—but are literally money-hungry. You belly up to the trough, slopping up tax dollars like gravy at an all-night diner, while the rest of us are left in line at the gas station heating up a microwave burrito on SNAP—because thanks to the overpriced gas tax hikes you crammed into HB 3991, every extra dollar we have left went into the tank instead of groceries.

And make no mistake: HB 3992 is an endless buffet line of public funding served under dim lighting behind closed doors, where legislative vampires hold quorum at night, away from the public who might dare to ask questions.

The buffet line is as follows:

- Section 2 (Page 2):

\$2,429,666 for ODOT Finance & Budget.

The appetizer platter.

ORS 184.616 already includes budgeting in their job duties, but who doesn't want to double dip into shrimp cocktails before the main course?

- Section 3 (Page 2–3):

\$1,150,063 for ODOT Administrative Services.

Dessert before dinner.

Cheesecake charged straight to the taxpayer's tab because apparently the entrée revenues from HB 3991 weren't filling enough.

- Section 4 (Page 3):

\$3,746,382 for ODOT Commerce & Compliance.

Another plate piled high. Endless refills for the government buffet.

- Section 5 (Page 3):

\$196,600,000 to ODOT Public Transportation.

The family-size combo meal, XXL edition. Ordinary Oregonians are told to tighten their belts, but when ODOT's belt snaps, the unions just help them buy a bigger one.

- Section 6 (Page 3):

\$252,725 for ODOT Policy, Data & Analysis. A super-size diet soda refill. Gulp it down—it seems healthier on the surface, but the cancer-causing chemicals taste better when it's carbonated with cash.

- Section 7 (Page 3):

\$191,889 for ODOT Project Delivery & Support.

The kid's meal, small fries. Pocket change compared to the rest, but still snatched from your neighbor's paychecks. And at this establishment, our kids do not and will never eat for free.

- Section 8 (Page 3–4):

\$479,446 for the Secretary of State's Audits Division.

This greasy side dish funds exactly TWO auditors—yes, two humans total—to “keep ODOT accountable”... to itself. In reality, it just creates two more public employees paying dues to feed the union machine that keeps this whole cycle spinning. It's the equivalent of handing two teenagers the keys to both the convertible and the credit card, then paying them to audit their own receipts.

- Section 9 (Page 3–4):

\$300,000 for LPRO.

The chef's special. Their excellence in hiding draft bills and committee schedules until the last possible minute deserves a bonus tip jar. Keeping us citizens in the dark is hard work, and neutrality has never been so expensive, all while claiming “nonpartisan service” - a bonus straight from Senior leadership's pockets.

- Section 10 (Page 4):

\$500,000 to DAS for a study on the methodology for the highway cost allocation study. Did you read that right?

A study on a study. ODOT'S M.O.

Like paying a waitress to slowly read you the menu at the buffet you already walked into—then paying her again to explain what “refills included” means.

And, last but not least, the digestif:

Section 11, the emergency clause.

Your favorite little checkbox on the LC Draft Request forms.

Because government vampires don't just feed during the day, they must gather in secret quorums at night, away from sunlight and livestreaming citizen oversight, to drink deeply from the endless taxpayer fountain of blood.

Of course, why stop there? I enthusiastically SUPPORT further additional menu items to take home in to-go boxes, in case you get the midnight munchies:

+ \$200,000 as a "literary award" to the unelected lawmakers in the Office of Legislative Counsel for sculpting unreadable 91-page monstrosities like LC2, then having a backup 53-page HB 3991 cued up on standby. Their talent for confusing the general public is plainly unmatched. Making law bend to the logic of the Flesch Score is an unsung public service to constitutional enthusiasts everywhere.

+ \$400,000 to the loyal ODOT road crews for their annual sport of ripping your political opponents' campaign yard signs off of private property, under ORS 368.256. Democracy sure looks cleaner when it's not cluttering up the right-of-way.

\* And let's not forget SB 96, the golden dessert cart: six-figure raises for every judge on the bench. After all, it takes serious crème-brûlée cash to keep the robe-wearers friendly to your policies while their children rack up Ivy League tuition bills.

HB 3992 doesn't just pad agency budgets — it pads union executives' 6-figure salaries, paid for with more of our taxdollar-funded union member dues. Those purple shirts aren't here out of the goodness of their hearts. Every new hire, every new dollar, comes with a union skim at the top before any citizen sees any ounce of service. The taxpayers may think they're getting better transportation services from the counties or cities, in reality, they're guaranteeing income streams for unions, which in turn cycle their profits back into specifically your Democrat political campaigns.

Oregon citizens don't get a seat at the table, as we have seen from those unrandomly selected to speak at these performative hearings; SEIU, AFSCME, ATU, and AEE already have VIP Tables reserved. They don't just eat at the buffet, they run the registers. HB 3992 proves yet again that in Salem, you don't just fund government — you fund government unions first, agencies second, and the public is left somewhere in the parking lot to scrounge out of the dumpsters.

HB 3992 shows us that Oregon politicians aren't just "greedy." They are professional buffet bingers, fiscal vampires, and seasoned fast-food fat cats who gorge on public funds with the skill of competitive mukbang eaters, all while their neighbors clip coupons and microwave Oregon Trail Card burritos at their corner gas stations.

For that reason—out of deep admiration for this Assembly’s unmatched knack for secrecy, double-and-triple dipping, and creative circle jerking—I urge your AYE vote for HB 3992—not because I think it’s the necessary companion budget bill to HB 3991, but because it’s like an open invitation to the Department of Government Efficiency.

When the feast turns into waste, DOGE is always the last one at the buffet line like the manager who shows up to take away the plates when the government eats too much.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. Phillips