

Testimony of Braeden Veary

Oregon City, Oregon

August 31, 2025

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Braeden Veary. I am a 23-year-old college student currently enrolled in the Chemeketa Community College fire program. I live at home because, like many young adults in Oregon, I cannot afford to move out. I work part-time, but I don't get enough hours to make ends meet. Even with help from food stamps and the student support programs that make college possible for me, every month is still a struggle.

The Governor's proposal in **HB 3991 and HB 3992** would make my situation even harder. I commute an hour each way to Chemeketa during the week, which already stretches my budget for fuel. Increasing the gas tax, registration and title fees, and nearly doubling the per-mile tax will directly raise my costs at a time when I am just trying to stay in school and train for a career serving my community as a firefighter.

I also find it discouraging that on August 25th, **95% of testimony submitted opposed this plan**, yet the Governor did not even attend the hearings. To see another testimony session quietly scheduled on a Sunday makes it feel like the voices of regular Oregonians are being ignored. Young people like me want to contribute and build a future here, but these kinds of tax hikes push that future farther out of reach.

I urge you to listen to the people of Oregon and **vote no on HB 3991 and HB 3992**. These bills will place an unfair burden on families and students who are already working hard just to get by.

Respectfully,

Braeden Veary