

Submitter: Karen Trotter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: HB3991

8/31/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned Oregon resident and working individual who is strongly opposed to any proposed tax increases. As someone who is doing their best to make ends meet in a difficult economy, I can say with certainty that everyday workers in this state simply cannot afford to pay more.

The rising cost of living, housing, food, gas, and basic necessities is already stretching families to their limits. Many people are working harder than ever, often at multiple jobs, just to stay afloat. Even a modest tax hike can have serious consequences for working households.

In the private sector, many corporations and small businesses have faced layoffs, and hiring freezes. They've had to make difficult decisions to stay within their budgets cutting expenses, eliminating non-essential roles, finding better places to do business, and streamlining operations. Jobs have left the state, been sent overseas, and companies are increasingly choosing to move or expand elsewhere due to Oregon's worsening business climate.

If working families and businesses are expected to tighten their belts, then its time state government does the same. Before asking taxpayers for more money, Oregon must take a hard look inward and make real efforts to live within its means. That means returning to a focus on core services and eliminating unneeded or underperforming programs and departments.

This includes:

Cutting unnecessary training, travel, and consulting expenses.

Freezing or delaying pay increases for upper-level management and elected officials.

Reviewing and scaling back low-impact projects and programs.

Reducing administrative overhead and redundant management roles.

Eliminating departments or services that consistently underperform or lack measurable outcomes.

Taxpayers deserve a government that is accountable, efficient, and fiscally responsible. Families are doing all they can to balance their budgets we expect the

same from our state.

Please oppose any further tax increases. It's time to focus on spending smarter, not taxing more.

Sincerely,  
Karen Trotter