

Submitter: Jeremy Wethall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

To the committee,

American citizens living in Oregon should not have to pay increased taxes, nor can we afford to do so, as Oregon is already one of the most expensive places to live. If Tina Kotek wishes to free up funds for transportation, I'd suggest reducing administrative headcount. Let's start with the Peacock Group in Portland City Council, who cost the tax payer ~\$3.2 Million dollars in salaries and whose office budgets total about \$1.5 Million. This highly partisan group does not represent a good % of Oregonians, and yet their salaries and office budgets are funded by the Portland tax payer. Dissolve the council, there's \$5 Million dollars for transportation.

Or how about the ~\$750 million Oregon spent on addressing homelessness in just the Portland Metro area. Long story short, it got worse, not better. Where did that money go? Clearly not on solving the homeless crisis. Maybe it would've been better invested in roads.

These are just a couple examples of non-value added spending that cost the tax payer money without providing us any benefit. I'm sure a full-blown audit would reveal billions of dollars more that could be allocated to roads and other infrastructure needs that our taxes actually should be supporting.

In other words, don't raise my taxes because you can't manage a budget.

Sincerely,

Jeremy.