

Submitter: Sean Dunning

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

As a concerned resident of Oregon, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed gas tax increase outlined in Governor Tina Kotek's transportation funding bill during this special session. The plan to raise the state gas tax by 6 cents per gallon, from 40 to 46 cents, along with hikes in vehicle registration and titling fees, is misguided and burdensome at a time when many families are already struggling with rising costs.

This tax hike would disproportionately affect low- and middle-income households who rely on vehicles for daily commutes, errands, and work. In rural areas like mine, public transportation options are limited, making driving a necessity rather than a choice. Increasing the gas tax would inflate the price of goods transported by truck, exacerbating inflation and hitting consumers hard at the pump and the grocery store.

Rather than resorting to regressive taxes, lawmakers should explore alternatives that don't punish drivers. Republicans have proposed redirecting funds from road safety and climate programs to address the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) shortfall without new taxes. This approach prioritizes efficiency and uses existing resources to maintain roads and prevent layoffs, avoiding the need for a \$5.8 billion revenue grab over the next decade.

Oregon's economy is still recovering from recent challenges, including high inflation and supply chain issues. Imposing additional taxes now could stifle growth and discourage investment in our state. I urge you to reject this bill and seek sustainable, fair solutions that support infrastructure without further straining taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sean M. Dunning