

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Co-Vice Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Levy and I am the State Representative for House District 58. I strongly oppose HB 3992, the companion budget bill to HB 3991. HB 3992 directs more than **\$204 million in new spending authority for ODOT**—spending that is funded directly by the painful tax and fee increases contained in HB 3991.

HB 3992 makes the problem worse by locking in new administrative growth at ODOT instead of prioritizing direct investments in rural roads and community infrastructure. For example:

- It expands ODOT by 20 new positions (12.5 FTE), adding layers of bureaucracy instead of focusing on fixing potholes, repairing bridges, or maintaining rural highways.
- Nearly \$9 million of new funds will go to administrative costs such as auditors, analysts, and IT projects—not to actual construction or maintenance.
- It allocates \$195.4 million in payroll tax revenues into programs like the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund, again drawing money from working Oregonians' paychecks.

This budget bill essentially grows government on the backs of taxpayers, especially rural and fixed-income families who already cannot afford the steep tax hikes included in HB 3991. Instead of tightening its belt and reforming inefficiencies, ODOT is being handed hundreds of millions in new spending authority and more staff positions.

At a time when families are cutting back, our government should be doing the same.

Rural Oregonians will see little direct benefit from these expenditures, yet they are being asked to pay more at the pump, more for vehicle registrations, and more out of their paychecks. I have been personally sent more than 250 emails begging me to vote “No” on increased taxes.

I urge this committee to do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Oregon State Legislature, House District 58