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 am writing today to voice strong opposition to HB 3991. While I recognize the need for sustainable funding for our transportation system, this bill places an unfair and disproportionate burden on rural and fixed-income Oregonians.

HB 3991 proposes a series of **steep increases in transportation-related taxes and fees.**

For rural residents, driving is not optional. We travel longer distances for work, school, medical appointments, and essential goods. Public transit is either limited or nonexistent—for instance, Greyhound has discontinued their line from Boise to Portland and my residents can't get to medical appointments. Increasing the gas tax and layering on new fees makes these basic needs more expensive and less attainable and further hurts my residents from accessing essential services.

For fixed-income Oregonians, these cumulative increases are simply unaffordable. A senior living on Social Security or a working family already struggling with inflation cannot absorb another $200+ in title fees or higher gas prices just to get to work. These are regressive taxes that hit the people least able to pay.

While HB 3991 repeals the tolling program established in HB 2017, the tradeoff is a package of across-the-board tax and fee hikes that punish everyday Oregonians without addressing the underlying inefficiencies within ODOT. Before demanding more from taxpayers, **we should insist on accountability, prioritization of existing projects, and cost savings within the department.**

HB 3991 is the wrong solution at the wrong time. It will harm rural families, seniors, and workers across Oregon. I respectfully urge this committee to reject HB 3991 and pursue alternatives that do not balance ODOT's shortfalls on the backs of those who can least afford it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bobby Levy

Oregon State Legislature, House District 58