

Submitter: Courtney Bangs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

I urge you to vote against the proposed ODOT tax increase in this special session. This bill does not fix the problems, it simply papers over them with another tax increase that Oregonians cannot afford. At best, it is a band-aid on a sinking ship.

In 2017, the Legislature passed a \$5.3 billion transportation package. Eight years later, ODOT is still in crisis, with projects behind schedule, over budget, and audits showing failed accountability. ODOT has admitted they could reallocate funds with legislative approval. That is the better path forward: shift priorities from new projects to preservation, maintenance, and operations, without asking taxpayers for more.

A billion-dollar budget blunder, mismanaged priorities, and a 12% cost-of-living increase for ODOT employees over the last biennial have directly fueled this shortfall. These are not revenue problems, they are spending problems.

An increase in gas taxes will raise the price of goods and services across the board. Families will feel it at the pump, at the grocery store, and through every cost linked to transportation.

Bottom line, Oregonians want change in spending priorities, not more taxes. Please vote no.

Sincerely,
Courtney Bangs
Clatsop County Commissioner District 4