

Submitter: Kyle Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

Dear Members of the House Transportation Funding Committee,  
I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3992, which modifies appropriations from the General Fund to the Emergency Board, adjusts expenditure limitations for certain state agencies, and appropriates additional moneys for biennial expenses. This bill appears to facilitate the implementation of related transportation funding measures, such as HB3991, which introduces significant tax increases on roads, vehicles, trucks, and buses, including a mandatory per-mile road usage charge over time with an optional flat fee alternative.

At a time when Oregonians are already facing economic pressures from inflation, rising living costs, and uncertain job markets, imposing additional taxes and fees through these interconnected bills is fiscally irresponsible and burdensome to working families. HB3992's budget adjustments, including an \$800,000 General Fund appropriation and corresponding reduction to the Emergency Fund, divert resources that could be better used elsewhere without raising new revenues. Instead of allocating funds to support tax hikes, the legislature should prioritize reallocating existing resources within the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to avoid layoffs and maintain essential services, rather than creating a false choice that justifies more taxation.

Furthermore, the per-mile road usage charge enabled by HB3991—and indirectly supported by HB3992's funding—raises serious privacy concerns, as it could involve tracking vehicle mileage, potentially infringing on personal freedoms. Oregon should explore innovative, non-tax-based solutions for transportation funding, such as public-private partnerships or efficiency improvements, rather than layering on more costs to drivers and businesses.

I urge you to vote against HB3992 during today's public hearing and work session, and to reject any measures that increase the financial strain on Oregon residents.

Thank you for considering my views and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Kyle Bennett