

Submitter: Brian Keyser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I strongly oppose this bill. We as a state are already losing jobs and business that are moving to other states and other businesses are laying off workers. The last number put out there in the media shows that number being over 20,000 jobs lost in the state this year. This isn't insignificant.

Having been a Chief Financial Officers, company President and also a business owner I have worked with financial forecasts and budgets for over 30 years. It is not uncommon for businesses, non-profits and governments to have budgeted revenue shortfalls which require leaders to make adjustments. first thing that must be done is soul-searching and determining what should be a priority for expenditures. To simply put forth a "solution" that calls on businesses and individuals to pay more in taxes and fees, is frankly tone-deaf in this state that is already facing the economic climate that is driving away individuals and businesses from our state. Even worse than driving businesses away is to heap on more government taxes and fees that will contribute to "main street" small businesses having to close. This is death by a thousand cuts to struggling small businesses.

In a state that already has one of the highest gas taxes in the nation to add an additional \$.06 per gallon is further stressing working Oregonians and sending the message that we don't want businesses to come to Oregon.

This bill, which is being put forth by a Governor and party that continually exclaim they are working for the "little guy" and the middle class hard working Oregonians, this bill is confusing and the antithesis of what you claim to support. The upper middle class and wealthy will likely be able to weather these additional taxes, but it's the lower and middle income citizens who will experience the biggest impact. The Dad and/or Mom who are simply trying to afford gas and have a vehicle to get to work to support a family will not just feel a pinch, they will experience a significant burden.

The Republican caucus has put forth a proposal that will re-prioritize current budget spending and retain jobs without burdening citizens with more taxes. I urge you to seriously consider their proposal. We don't need any new taxes.

A year from now when Oregonians are feeling the full brunt of this bill, they will remember every politician who voted for this bill when they are deciding who they

vote for in the 2026 mid-term elections. I urge you it is not to late to abandon this bill or simply vote it down. This will be doing the right thing for all Oregonians.