

Submitter: Nell Ward

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

Members of the Committee,

My name is Nell Ward, and I am an Oregon resident. I work full-time as a blue-collar, automotive collision tech, and represent the middle-class. I am writing today to respectfully urge you to oppose the HB3991 tax increase. I will be submitting testimony to oppose HB3992 also. I submitted this for the proposal LC2.

As someone who lives paycheck to paycheck, I already feel the heavy weight of rising costs. Housing, groceries, utilities, and fuel have all gone up. For working people like me, every extra dollar taken in taxes is a dollar less for rent, medical bills, or simply keeping food on the table. I have no savings.

While large corporations often find ways to absorb or avoid higher taxes, middle-class workers do not have that option. We carry the burden directly. And some large corporations are leaving Oregon completely.

Oregonians are proud to contribute to our state, but there must be balance. Increasing taxes at a time when families are struggling with inflation and stagnant wages is not balance—it is a step toward pushing working-class families further behind. If this bill passes, many of us will be forced to cut back on essentials or take on more debt just to keep up. That is not sustainable for a healthy community. Think of the Gateway community, who lost their closest grocery store and now have to commute 15 minutes to the next nearest one that doesn't even have all the options, at \$4.00 a gallon for gas.

I respectfully ask you to consider the everyday Oregonians who keep this state running: the mechanics, electricians, nurses, teachers, and other workers who cannot afford another tax hike. We want Oregon to thrive, but more taxes for us to consider whether staying here is worth it and whether the local government is listening to us at all. There are administrative staff that make more money in 4 months than I make in a YEAR who will be deciding if I should pay MORE and I am royally pissed off.

Without the middle class, you have no money to tax. And with the increase in taxes, we have no money to survive.

That the governor is holding necessary money for your districts and counties over your head, as a threat of what you can lose if you don't vote yes, is despicable and should be condemned. Support shouldn't come from coercion into complete submission, it should come from cooperation.

For these reasons and very many more, I urge you to vote a big fat NO on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
A concerned citizen