

Submitter: Russell Olivas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

I vehemently oppose HB3991 + HB3992 as a small business owner, resident and citizen of Portland. The lack of accountability for those in public office is at an all-time low and instead of repairing that trust and coming forth with a balanced approach that prioritizes services the rhetoric instead looks to deflect and make false claims that administration is the key to success. Everyone can agree, any and every business functioning in the free market must balance the budget, invest in the future and hold strict accounting practices or expect to go out of business. Instead of adding this provision, we should eliminate ineffective leadership, set clear goals, and working within an established budget. The lack of transparency, integrity and sense of direction in the ODOT organization is abysmal.

For a direct representation of how this tax would affect everyone in the wrong ways look at the most economically precarious of us. My entry level workers wage will now have to be lowered to cover the tax. It isn't the employer that loses it's the worker. If the wage impacts the business the business closes its doors or is faced to automate to avoid higher payments to workers ie. less collected taxable income. You're creating an anti-business loop by adding all of these taxes. Small business is always the biggest loser, less money in our pockets is less money going to our workers.

The roads are in horrendous shape. The ODOT salaries should also be horrendous. If the roads were in better shape then one could argue the salaries should be better but they aren't. We don't need an equitable and inclusive ODOT. We need a functioning body that get's the job done. Don't get the job done, don't get paid. It should be that simple. Don't work on complex projects unless you can deliver. It's time to bring the adults back to the table and purge the children.