

Submitter: Sydney Lovely  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

I am highly concerned about the direction of the state's economy. I grew up in Oregon, earned an electrical engineering degree from Oregon State University, started a high-tech business in Beaverton and raised a family here. However, in recent years we've earned the dubious distinction of the 11st worst state in the nation for businesses and we're seeing other states actively recruiting away our home-grown businesses including Dutch Bros moving to Arizona, Tektronix moving their headquarters to North Carolina and Intel laying off thousands disproportionately affecting Oregon. Businesses regularly cite high taxes as a primary driver in their desire to escape the state.

In addition to losing businesses, we are also losing higher income taxpayers at an alarming rate. The top 20% of income earners (making \$137K or more) already pay 63% of the personal income tax in Oregon . Recently passed taxes like the Supportive Housing Services and Preschool for All have now driven the marginal tax rate in Portland to the second highest in the nation. Unlike the past where these workers were trapped in offices, with the rise of remote work these workers now have agency and we are now seeing a surge of people moving to other states and taking the tax base with them.

We can still turn this around, but we need to apply some common sense to decisions made in Salem. Just like a family budget, the state needs to live within its means. We need to prioritize essential services like road maintenance from existing taxes and we need to find other places to cut spending. I urge you all to vote no on the upcoming transportation tax bill which will deepen the economic crisis that Oregon is facing and start rebuilding Oregon back to the prosperous state that we all know it can be.

Kind Regards,  
Sydney Lovely