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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

I work for ODOT. Something I have not seen mentioned is the heavy reliance the citizens of Oregon have on the hundreds of backend and public facing systems that are used by organizations all over the state, from gates at parks to thousands of roadside devices. Republicans say they support law enforcement and justice, so be aware that courts and law enforcement among many others depend on the timely delivery of DMV information. ODOT's IT departments will be greatly impacted by these layoffs. We already have many people retiring and many positions waiting to be backfilled. Those positions are now frozen, and many are retiring early. ODOT already faces great challenges without these layoffs, and by cutting so many staff, I am concerned that critical systems that Oregonians depend on will be left unsupported. Morale is at an all-time low. Please consider how many other government organizations and commercial enterprises depend on ODOT's services which depend on our IT infrastructure. I am concerned that the message hasn't been properly delivered to the public or legislators. ODOT is a highly technical organization and as you can see from public layoff lists, the IT department is getting slashed and burned. Please consider the ramifications of this as well as the layoffs affecting public-facing employees. This game of political football seems highly short-sighted. The amount of institutional knowledge at ODOT is immense and almost impossible to replace. If you allow our organization to be slashed as punishment for leaders who no longer work here, you're encouraging talented individuals to jump ship (it's already happening). It's easy to play poker with our lives while totally ignoring the impact this will have on ODOT employees, citizens, courts, law enforcement, and enterprise businesses. Please consider funding us to save these vital positions.