

Submitter: Rachel Correll

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

The people of Oregon oppose this proposal to increase taxes and fees to fund ODOT. It is incredibly irresponsible and unacceptable to continue to fund outrageously bloated budgets and executive positions with ODOT's track record (the Abernathy bridge, the rose quarter project and the interstate bridge replacement to name a few). It's time for fiscal accountability—just like Oregon constituents are expected to do. We have had enough of project budgets being double and even triple the original amount and in some cases, the projects haven't even been completed. The lack of clarity on what the tax revenue will go towards is also alarming—another opportunity for spending to go unchecked. It is unconstitutional to give an unelected body unconditional power to raise taxes. Oregonians should not have to carry this financial burden due to ODOT's mismanagement. Lastly, the governor's use of power to call a special session and not even show up to the hearings is offensive. There was a perfectly good plan that Republicans created to keep essential jobs and funded what ODOT recommended as essential workout increases in constituent's being taxed. Oregonians pay high tax rates with little progress or improvement to show for it. To incite fear and threaten lay offs to push this plan through is unacceptable—we can do better and it's time for Oregonians to be heard and for elected officials to represent the people.