

Submitter: Sam Stewart
On Behalf Of: Oregon Taxpayers
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to HB3991 and HB3992. These bills represent a sweeping and unjustified increase in taxes and fees that will burden Oregon taxpayers and disproportionately harm working families, small businesses, and rural communities.

HB3991 proposes:

A gas tax increase

Higher vehicle registration and title fees

A doubling of the statewide transit payroll tax

HB3992 compounds the damage by allocating these funds to administrative spending within ODOT, without clear accountability or project-specific justification.

This is not a transportation solution—it's a tax package disguised as progress. Oregon families are already grappling with inflation, rising energy costs, and economic uncertainty. Adding more financial strain through regressive taxes is not only irresponsible, it's tone-deaf to the realities Oregonians face.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency and specificity in how these funds will be used raises serious concerns. ODOT has a documented history of mismanagement, including the failure to complete the Rose Quarter project despite receiving funding in 2017. Why should we trust that more money will lead to better outcomes when past performance suggests otherwise?

Let me be clear: I support infrastructure investment when it is targeted, efficient, and accountable. But HB3991 and HB3992 are none of those things. They are punitive, vague, and fiscally reckless.

I urge you to reject these bills and instead pursue a transportation strategy that respects taxpayers, prioritizes essential infrastructure, and demands accountability from state agencies.