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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

It is my basic conviction that we are spending too much money on infrastructure. Too much on schools. Too much on health care. Too much on government programs in general. I regret the apparent cultural consensus that in order to prove we value something, we must "invest public funds" into them.

For the sake of argument, let us assume we CANNOT have a society that operates well without taxes (defending the rights of the poor, the widow, the elderly, the sick, the oppressed, etc.). Let us then ask what is the regulative principle by which we determine how much "public funds" to invest toward that end? I submit to you that YHWH Himself only asked for 10%...and He did not setup an HRS (Heavenly Revenue Service) to enforce this 1/10th!**

Internet says current tax burden is around 30%. I submit that likely does not include the cost of taxes baked into the cost of goods and services (the cost of gas tax on the price of milk, for example). Nor does it include the HIDDEN TAX OF INFLATION, devaluing the currency. What about all the fees we are charged to own a car, build a shed, install a plumbing fixture, withdraw from our 401k, etc. I submit that the actual tax burden is around 50%, at least for those middle-class suckers like me.

It is difficult to decipher what regulative principle is being used to limit the burden of taxation in this current (or previous) legislative session. It seems to me we might consider 10% as an upper limit.

But then our mothers and fathers and neighbors will be on the street without a roof, or pills, or transportation! Well some of them still are (I see them everyday I work under the bridges in Portland). It is possible I would elect to purchase a new car with my money instead of paying for my parents house to be painted, and you could definitely argue against the former appealing to love of others. It's true. The freedom to self-direct the fruits of one's labor puts society at risk of judgement for failing to fulfill the obligation God has placed on man to love and serve Him and the neighbor He has placed in your path. But we should carefully consider whether we are pursuing tax policy that breaks the 8th commandment in order to fulfill the rest.

I for one am interested in taking on the risk of self-direction for the sake of loving others, that I might direct the fruits of my family's labor toward care for my family and others. I also know that I will fail at this, which is why I am willing (sometimes more reluctantly than others) to submit to the authority God has placed over me in helping to direct my giving toward others. It is my obligation to submit to these authorities. It

is the obligation of the authorities to submit to God. Please do not diss-regard this obligation as you deliberate on our behalf.

**He did promise curses for law breakers, and blessing for law keepers. But this was and is in the context of a relationship with Him in which He made a covenant to bless His people and then provided the means to participate in this covenantal relationship with Him (person and work of Jesus Christ).