

June 12, 2025

Greetings to the Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment.

Ref. Public Hearing on Oregon HB 2025

I speak in opposition to the referenced bill. My opposition is based on the following considerations.

1. While, as a citizen, I recognize the need for governments to operate and be funded by the use of taxes, I oppose the lack of transparency as to the specific use of funds generated by this bill and the lack of oversight or control over how departments and agencies will use these new funds. It's a fundamental law of societies that, unobstructed, government will continue to grow, accrete power at the expense of personal liberty, and spend more money than it has. Our elected representatives must resist and oppose this tendency.
2. The high cost of auto and equipment fuels, which include fuel taxes, can and do have a direct and adverse impact on the citizens of the State of Oregon, especially those with limited means. Apparently this bill does nothing to soften the impact on those who can least afford the proposed increase. Public and mass transit options do not exist in a meaningful way for the vast majority of Oregon's citizens. Because of Oregon's unique geography and demographics, many have to drive long distances to get to their jobs, and increased fuel taxes are not fair.
3. Increasing taxes is inflationary. This is not an opinion, it's a fact. Oregonians and all Americans have recently gone through a multi-year and significant increase in the cost of living, caused largely by excessive government spending. HB 2025 does nothing to reverse that trend.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Shawn Graham – Corvallis, Oregon