

Submitter: Marie Bowers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Opposition Testimony – HB 2025

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully oppose HB 2025.

This bill raises taxes and fees without meaningful reform or accountability in how transportation funds are spent. While I support investment in roads and bridges, HB 2025 places a disproportionate burden on rural Oregonians—especially farmers and small businesses—who rely heavily on fuel, equipment, and long-distance travel for everyday operations.

Farmers already pay substantial road-use taxes through fuel, permits, and registrations. Tripling payroll taxes and increasing vehicle fees—on top of rising inflation and input costs—jeopardizes our ability to produce and distribute food efficiently. These costs hit rural communities hardest, where driving longer distances is a necessity, not a choice.

HB 2025 fails to recognize the realities of agricultural transportation. Our industry is mobile, dependent on nonstandard schedules and farm-plated trucks that cannot be easily electrified or replaced. Penalizing dyed diesel use, without evidence of misuse, adds another layer of unnecessary regulation.

Without clear guarantees that rural roads and infrastructure will benefit, this bill becomes just another cost shift onto working families. We need accountability and equity—not a one-size-fits-all funding model.

I urge you to oppose HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Marie Bowers