

As Mayor of Lafayette my constituents expect and depend on me to not only be aware of issues on the state and federal level that impact them, but to stand up and voice concerns when warranted.

Many of the residents commute into Portland and Salem in order to provide for their families. This bill will cause the burden of the cost onto the rural families that not only travel farther but have no option but to do so using their own vehicles due to the lack of public transportation. My own husband commutes 100 miles daily to work long hard hours to provide a life for our family and now we find ourselves penalized for gas and wear and tear on our vehicle because we made the decision to move to a town that we could raise our children in with the intent to thrive compared to living closer to his work and not being able to afford to be homeowners.

This bill will end up costing the people of rural Oregon the most, when it should be something that protects them. We selected a USDA homeloan designed to encourage people to live where rural towns exist to help those towns and the farmers who call it home thrive and now Oregon plans to do something that will encourage the opposite. It will cause families to fight for a smaller residence closer to the larger towns to save on gas and wear and tear of vehicles and to force them to be close to public transportation as the other option.

The added costs will hurt not only the resident from their own costs accrued but also as citizens part of a small town that is already having to make choices on what to cut in order to not raise fees and taxes on our residents. We are out of fringe options to cut, the costs we will be dealing with for added gas and costs to replace our fleets of vehicles will impact that budget. We are not just talking about small pick up trucks, we are talking about expensive fire engines etc.

Throwing more money at ODOT without requiring them to fix their spending issues and be accountable for the funds is the most irresponsible way to handle this situation. If I handled my city with the same choice as this we would be embarrassed to stand behind that choice. Hold ODOT responsible and respect the people who call Oregon home.

When I became Mayor I knew I would have to make hard decisions that best met the needs of my constituents, what I didn't realize was no matter how hard of a choice we make to protect their bottom line it's pointless when the state can do something as damaging as this.

Hilary Malcomson
Mayor Of Lafayette

June 26, 2025