

Submitter: Jeremy Garland

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

As an Oregonian and a parent of two young children, I strongly believe that House Bill 2025, the proposed Transportation Reinvestment Package, would have placed an unfair burden on my family and countless others across the state. Living near Portland, we already face rising costs for everyday essentials, and the bill's steep tax increases—like the 15-cent gas tax hike, new vehicle sales taxes, and additional fees for our hybrid car—would have hit our household budget hard. These costs would make it tougher to afford family outings, like our planned summer road trips, or even the daily commute to work and school. For many Oregonians, especially those in rural areas who rely on driving long distances, these taxes would have been a punishing blow to their finances. The bill's rushed introduction late in the 2025 session, with little time for public input, also felt like a betrayal of the transparency we deserve. While I support improving Oregon's roads and bridges, HB 2025 seemed designed to benefit select projects rather than addressing the needs of everyday families like mine. The lack of clear, equitable solutions and the heavy reliance on regressive taxes made this bill a bad deal for Oregonians, threatening to squeeze our wallets without guaranteeing the infrastructure improvements we were promised. I'm relieved it didn't pass, as it would have made life harder for my family and many others striving to make ends meet.