

Submitter: Matt Zajack
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4085

Testimony Against House Bill 4085: Concerns About Autonomous Vehicle Rollout
I write to strongly oppose House Bill 4085 and urge careful reconsideration of this dangerous expansion of autonomous vehicle regulations. Our transportation system is already struggling with critical challenges:

1. Increased Congestion, Not Solutions

The bill's exemption of autonomous vehicles from standard regulations flies in the face of our urgent roadway capacity problems. Adding thousands more single- and zero-occupancy vehicles—particularly through "on-demand autonomous vehicle networks"—will exacerbate rather than reduce congestion. Why would we intentionally crowd our already strained roads with unrestricted, automated traffic?

2. Safety Risks Without Protections

While the bill claims safety standards, it eliminates local governments' ability to set reasonable safeguards. The removal of licensing requirements and the exemption from standard commercial vehicle rules raises serious red flags about accountability and crash prevention.

3. Unwise Experimentation

Oregon shouldn't be a tech testing ground for transportation. This legislation assumes autonomous vehicles will somehow fix our problems, but the evidence suggests they may create new ones. We need verified solutions, not regulatory shortcuts for unproven technology.

4. Funding Burdens

With no local control over fees or permits, taxpayers and other road users (drivers and vulnerable road users) will bear the costs of accidents, infrastructure damage, and system strain from these unrestricted vehicles.

I urge the committee to pause, engage actual transportation experts, and protect Oregonians from premature adoption of this risky proposal.