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Members of the Committee,

Thank you for being here to listen to the voices of the people of Oregon. Last year, public testimony, as well as polling, was overwhelmingly opposed to increased transportation taxes and fees. Despite this, the legislature pushed the bill through in a special session.

When ordinary, hard-working people hear that our voices are being ignored, it makes us angry. Political gamesmanship, like delaying the bill signing to make it harder to collect signatures, makes us angrier. I am extremely proud of Oregon's role in bringing about the signature petition process. If you believe in democracy at all, you will be proud of that too, and you will respect that process.

There are many things I would have rather spent my time on than standing for hours in the freezing cold to collect signatures. I could read a book, throw a ball for my dog, get some sewing done, or study for an upcoming exam. But the legislature's actions forced me to instead go out and collect signatures in the rain, so I did... as did many, many other people. It was supposed to be an impossible task, but we did it anyway. This is a nonpartisan petition, supported by Democrats, Libertarians, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters.

We are here today to tell you: We expect you to be able to find funding for basic road maintenance without raising taxes or fees. We expect you to take better care of our money. And we expect you to protect our democratic rights by leaving the vote in November.