

Submitter: Tina Eilers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

The public cannot afford another expense related to transportation. In the past 4 years, the energy policies of the national Democratic administration have caused substantial increases in the cost of transportation, due to the increase in gas prices by an average of approximately \$1.50 more per gallon compared to the previous Republican administration. I estimate that the added expense of gas alone over the past 4yrs has been approximately \$4,000 more for me personally than it would have been had the reckless energy regulations of the previous administration not been put into effect. Killing the Keystone Pipeline project, crazy "Green Energy" policies, etc. have led to unsustainable increases in the cost of energy without reasonably affordable and truly sustainable alternatives (electric vehicles are not sustainable, look at California asking residents to not charge their cars last summer during a heat wave....doesn't work). To add an excise tax to the purchase of tires just adds another expense into the budget of hard-working Oregonians. For what? To "keep elk and deer from crossing the highway?" You have to be out of your minds to think this is an attainable goal! Please do not hustle the money of hard-working Oregonians for such a foolish, unattainable endeavor. Nobody wants to hit elk/deer, but it is a fact of life that sometimes accidents happen and it seems like an incredible waste of money to try to mitigate this reality. I highly doubt that elk/deer will pay attention to signs that lead them to a crossing.

In addition, to create this new tax to try to build additional Amtrak lines places an undue burden on folks. Who knows how long it will take for new lines to be built, and once they are built they may help with travel to a few destinations, but additional means of transportation for folks on a daily basis will be very limited. Further, if you look at the example of California, warning should be heeded. What began as a project in 2008 that was supposed to be completed in 2020 has been a significant failure so far, with billions of dollars having already been spent on who knows what...and here we are, 17yrs after the start of it, and only a tiny portion of the rail has (in theory) been laid (and even that has been difficult to locate any information on, I still can't find the details!). I don't hold out hope that an additional rail system in Oregon stands much of a chance of being successful at all, much less in the near future in a way that will substantially meet the needs of those traveling in Oregon. In the meantime, you'll be taking away the hard-earned cash of working Oregonians to apply toward the current transportation that they DO have. To own and operate a vehicle is a necessity in most cases. In addition to the cost of fuel increasing, the cost of insurance and vehicle prices themselves have increased. Why add another transportation-related expense for a mostly foolish endeavor that may sound good, but is unrealistic, impractical and most likely unattainable?

Please, listen to the taxpayers of Oregon and do not add another undue burden to the taxpayer. If you'd like a worthy project, please direct current taxes collected to fixing the perpetual cavern near milepost 13 on HWY 26 to the coast that threatens to destroy every vehicle crossing over it! Take care of the practical stuff, focus on maintenance and keeping up with what we already have. Stop with the over-regulation/excess taxation of citizens and help us out! Thank you.