

Submitter: Corinne Rice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Corinne, and I am a concerned resident of Washington County, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 2025, which proposes significant new tax and fee increases on Oregonians.

As a taxpayer, I am deeply concerned by the continuous push for higher taxes in our state. Oregonians, particularly those of us in Washington County, already face a substantial tax burden, including some of the highest vehicle registration fees in the nation. It is a common experience, when registering a vehicle in other counties or states, to hear comments about the unusually high fees we pay in Washington County. This bill would only exacerbate an already challenging financial situation for families and individuals.

Furthermore, I struggle to see how increased taxation will genuinely improve our infrastructure when existing funds do not appear to be managed effectively. Despite current taxes allocated for road maintenance and improvements, major thoroughfares like Scholls Ferry Road in Washington County remain in remarkably poor condition, characterized by uneven surfaces and potholes. This raises a critical question: if our current revenue streams are insufficient to maintain existing infrastructure at an acceptable standard, how can we have faith that simply increasing the budget will lead to better outcomes?

The pattern of consistently seeking to raise taxes and accrue more debt, rather than demonstrating fiscal responsibility with existing resources, erodes public trust. It suggests a lack of accountability in how taxpayer dollars are being utilized. Before demanding more from the hardworking people of Oregon, I believe the state must first demonstrate a clear and efficient use of the substantial funds it already collects. We need a commitment to, and visible evidence of, improved fiscal management and tangible results from current revenue, not simply more taxes.

I urge this committee to seriously consider the cumulative financial strain on Oregon families and businesses and to re-evaluate the proposed tax increases in HB 2025. Instead, I implore you to focus on strategies that prioritize efficient spending, transparent accountability, and measurable improvements to our infrastructure with the funds already available.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Corinne Rice  
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