

Submitter: Benjamin Roche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

The proposed Oregon Transportation Package, House Bill 2025, is not just a collection of numbers and clauses; it's a direct assault on the financial stability of Oregon's most vulnerable. This bill threatens to unleash a torrent of new taxes and fees that will disproportionately crush those already struggling to make ends meet.

Consider the harsh realities:

The new diesel fuel tax will inevitably drive up the cost of everything, from groceries to essential goods, making daily life harder for families on tight budgets.

The mandatory per-mile road usage charge, even with a yearly fee option, is a regressive tax. It will hit low-income individuals, who often commute longer distances for work, with an unbearable financial burden. For many, reliable transportation is not a luxury, but a lifeline to employment, healthcare, and education. This charge will effectively penalize them for simply living and working.

Increased weight-mile taxes will translate into higher prices for goods and services across the board, impacting every Oregonian, but especially those who can least afford it.

This is not about funding progress; it's about shifting the burden onto the backs of hardworking Oregonians who are already stretched thin. Lawmakers have a moral obligation to fund the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with existing revenue. We demand accountability and fiscal responsibility from ODOT. They must demonstrate that they can effectively manage their budget and prioritize projects within their current means, rather than resorting to incessant tax hikes that push our most vulnerable citizens further into hardship. We refuse to accept that the only path forward is to dig deeper into the pockets of Oregonians. It's time for lawmakers to stand with the people, not against them, and protect our communities from these detrimental tax increases.

VOTE NO on HB2025