

Submitter: Russell Bohanon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Honorable committee members,

I write today to plead with you not to move HB 2025 forward. In an era of economic uncertainty for “run of the mill” Oregonians who are just trying to make ends meet, HB 2025 will be a substantial increased financial burden. Food, utilities, mortgages, rent... you name it, folks are really struggling. The last thing that they need on top of it all is added transportation expenses. While most of the rest of the country has enjoyed lower fuel costs over the past few months, prices in Oregon have remained stagnant in some parts of the state and have actually increased in others! In fact, as of June 10, 2025, Oregon has the fourth highest gasoline prices on average in the country, per AAA! Now is not the time to force hard working Oregonians to pay more to get their children to school, to drive to work, go to the grocery store, or take their families on the road for a long weekend.

Regarding the proposed increase in vehicle registration fees, the only way this would be effective is if valid registration is enforced. My career requires me to be on the road daily, and based on the number of license plates that I see that have been expired for years as well as vehicles with no plates at all, it has seemingly become a free for all for those who for whatever reason choose not to legally register their vehicle. Under the proposed increase in fees, only those who “play by the rules” will be impacted due to the lack of enforcement, and that just isn't right. Unless law enforcement across all jurisdictions is directed to enforce vehicle registration laws, this part of HB 2025 will accomplish nothing (except hurt those who voluntarily comply.)

In closing, I feel that it is time that Oregon's government do what many of its citizens must do - live within its means. Most of us cannot just demand more money from our employers - we must make due. With the cost of living in Oregon being what it is, I feel that it is borderline reprehensible for government to demand even more. Many working families have to do more with less, and it's time that Salem do likewise.

Respectfully,

Russell Bohanon
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