

Submitter: Randall Shafer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I write today as a concerned citizen and constituent in opposition to this bill and urge you to oppose this as well. Oregon and especially ODOT has lost the trust of the people in its continued mismanagement of projects and budgets. No corrective actions, responsibility for gross budget mismanagement or general accountability has taken place. With this bill, not only do you continue to assist ODOT in mismanagement of public taxpayer funds, this bill further removes accountability and further hurts working Oregonians.

The revisions of this bill further remove accountability to the taxpayers of the State of Oregon. The Governor appoints the director, the director appoints the chief engineer and the committee is appointed by "people with experience", no doubt in favor of the governors actions. Government should have accountability and transparency. Nothing could be further from transparency here. It is rife with potential political appointment conflicts.

For the Oregon Taxpayer, this represents favoring a continual rise in specific taxes over the next 9 years. That is to say, you believe that continuous increases in taxation are justified even when you cannot provide the economic impacts of this legislation. Is this justified? Is it needed? You will increase oversight with quarterly and biennium reviews but not one piece of this legislation includes accountability if the conclusions of those reviews find mismanagement or waste or fraud. It is either oversight or it is political theater pretending to be oversight.

Finally, the average worker in the State of Oregon necessarily have an automobile to be able to work. All of the privilege fees named in this bill (amendments and otherwise) are simply discouragement taxes, designed to force citizens into economic hardship with increased registration and licensing fees, and fuel taxes.

This Committee has decided, without the vote of the people, that taxation with undetermined financial impacts, undetermined financial success of DOT projects and gubernatorial appointments are in our best interests.

I urge you to step out of your committee and look at this situation as the average citizen living here today, with continued population and wealth flight from Oregon to other states and ask yourself for whom is this bill in the best interests of?

