

Submitter: John Joost

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is John Joost, and I'm a lifelong Oregon resident. I'm writing to share how devastating an extra gas tax would be for my family and many others who are already struggling just to survive in this economy.

Gas prices in Oregon are already some of the highest in the country. Every week, I watch more of my paycheck disappear just to keep my car running—so I can get to work, take my kids to school, and buy groceries. We don't have the luxury of skipping trips or working from home. For us, every mile matters. When gas goes up even a few cents, that's money we have to take from somewhere else—like food, rent, or medical bills.

This economy is tough. Prices are up everywhere—groceries, utilities, housing. Our wages haven't kept up, and the cost of living just keeps rising. We're cutting corners in every way we can. We eat out less, we buy store brands, we put off things we used to consider basic. But we can only stretch a dollar so far.

Adding another gas tax now feels like kicking us while we're down. I understand the government needs money to fund services, but they also need to learn how to manage the money they already have. It's not fair to expect working families to keep paying more when we're already drowning in bills. There needs to be better budgeting, smarter spending, and real accountability. Instead of asking for more, it's time for our leaders to prioritize what really matters and stop balancing budgets on the backs of the people who can least afford it.

Please hear us. We're not asking for handouts—we're asking for fairness, for understanding, and for policies that reflect the reality of everyday working families.

Thank you.