

Submitter: John Joost  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is John Joost, and I live in Albany—and like many Oregon families, we're already stretched to the breaking point.

Oregon's gas prices are currently some of the highest in the nation, and this bill would increase the state gas tax by 15 cents per gallon, with further adjustments tied to inflation; it would also tax diesel at the same rate as gasoline, introduce new vehicle and weight-mile fees, and eventually impose a per-mile charge on electric vehicles starting in 2026 .

Here's why HB?2025 is a harmful burden on working families like mine:

### 1. Immediate Hit to Household Budgets

For a family that drives 1,000?miles a month at an average of 20?mpg, that extra 15¢/gallon translates to an additional \$75 per month, or \$900 per year—money we simply cannot spare.

Diesel users—farmers, tradespeople, commercial drivers—will be squeezed too, since diesel is taxed under the same structure .

### 2. Compound Pressure in an Unsustainable Economy

We're already grappling with rising costs across the board—rent, groceries, healthcare—while wage increases haven't kept pace.

This tax hike isn't just another line item—it forces families to cut out essentials: dinners, school activities, medicine, or saving for emergencies.

### 3. Missed Opportunities for Responsible Government Spending

The state says these revenues will address transportation infrastructure and oversight. But Republican legislators have criticized the process as partisan and rushed, saying it lacks transparency and real collaboration .

We need better budgeting and prioritization—not simply shifting costs onto those least able to afford them.

#### 4. Long-Term Impacts on Families & Communities

Higher transportation costs could force us to cut back on essential travel: doctor visits, school events, trips to work.

As transportation becomes more expensive, it deepens economic inequity, hitting rural and low-income families hardest—those who often have fewer alternatives.

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#### Our Asks

1. Delay or reject HB?2025 until a truly bipartisan solution is developed.
2. Hold a transparent public audit of ODOT's spending, to ensure dollars are used efficiently—without shifting more pain onto taxpayers.
3. Focus on budget reallocation and better oversight, so we can maintain roads without overburdening families.

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#### In Closing

We're not asking for handouts. We're asking for responsible governance—a legislature that manages existing revenue before forcing new taxes on working families. With costs already skyrocketing, HB?2025 isn't an investment in Oregon's future—it's a tax hike on survival.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.