

Submitter: Shawn Varwig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Members of the Committee,

I'm writing as a small business owner to strongly oppose yet another proposed gas tax increase. Frankly, this constant pattern of reaching for tax hikes as the default solution has to stop.

Oregon already has the 5th highest gas prices in the nation. That's not leadership; it's failure. And now, instead of finding smarter ways to manage state resources, you're asking those of us who are already stretched thin to foot the bill yet again. Small business owners, working families, and people who rely on vehicles for their livelihood are not your personal piggy bank.

Every added cent at the pump hits businesses like mine hard. I run a company where transportation is essential. I pay above-average wages because I believe in taking care of my team. But when fuel costs climb because of shortsighted policies, we're forced to make impossible choices: raise prices, delay growth, or halt wage increases. You're not just taxing gas, you're taxing our ability to succeed.

You were elected to lead, not to pass the burden onto the people doing the actual work to keep this state moving. Be better. Get more creative. We need solutions, not shortcuts. And certainly not another hit to our already overburdened wallets.

Please vote no on this proposal and start leading in a way that respects the people you represent.

Sincerely,
Shawn Varwig
CEO, Home Staging Northwest
REALTOR, Keller Williams Realty Portland Premiere