

Submitter: Jeffrey Kelder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2025.

HB 2025 imposes significant tax increases, and new taxes, upon the people of Oregon. Per numerous audits by the Oregon Secretary of State in the past years and even in the past months, these audits demonstrate the inefficiencies and inabilities of state agencies to responsibly manage and expend the tax monies already allocated to them - yet HB 2025 plans to send even more taxpayer money to ODOT, which a recent audit revealed ODOT displays similar inefficiencies and inabilities that are plaguing many other state agencies.

Prior to the Legislature increasing any more taxes, the executive branch of Oregon needs to demonstrate to the people a consistent track record of spending taxpayer money wisely and effectively - such is not the case now. No new monies should be allocated to ODOT until it proves, consistently over time, that its managers are responsibly using the funds provided to them.

HB 2025 disproportionately impacts Oregonians who are the least able to afford these tax increases. The landscaper tending to the grounds of a university pays the same tax rate as the university president. The landscaper will notice that the Oregon Legislature's tax policy reduces his disposable income to feed and clothe his family - the university president will most likely hardly notice at all.

It is a common reality that politicians find it easy to spend other people's money - HB 2025 is a ready example of this trait - No on HB 2025!