

Submitter: Chris Meier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed vehicle-related taxes and fees included in HB 2025. While I fully recognize the importance of investing in Oregon's transportation infrastructure, the approach taken in this legislation places an undue and inequitable burden on the very Oregonians who can least afford it.

The proposed increases — including higher fuel taxes, registration and title fee hikes, and new taxes on both new and used vehicle purchases — functionally operate as a regressive sales tax. These measures disproportionately affect working- and middle-class families, particularly in communities where public transportation is limited or nonexistent. For many Oregonians, owning a vehicle is not a luxury — it is a basic requirement for getting to work, accessing education, and meeting everyday needs.

The proposed 2% "transfer tax" on new vehicles (and 1% on used), along with a 0.5% hike in the privilege tax, stacked atop rising registration and title fees, and the introduction of new mileage-based charges, all combine to make vehicle ownership more financially prohibitive than ever. These costs come at a time when auto loan delinquencies have reached historic highs and vehicle insurance premiums are soaring. This is not just poor timing — it's fundamentally inequitable.

We should not attempt to balance our infrastructure funding needs on the backs of Oregon's families, small businesses, and essential workers. There are smarter, more balanced alternatives to fund transportation reinvestment without further straining household budgets or discouraging vehicle purchases in an already fragile consumer market.

I urge you and your colleagues to oppose these revenue provisions and instead work toward a solution that supports our transportation goals without compromising economic fairness.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. I urge you to oppose HB 2025 and the proposed vehicle fee and tax structure.

Sincerely,

Chris Meier

Partner – Herzog-Meier Auto Center

Region IV Vice-Chair – National Auto Dealers Association