

Submitter: Ray Keen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Ray Keen, and I live and work in Canby, Oregon. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2025. As the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of low-income families each year, I see firsthand the financial pressures that hardworking Oregonians are already facing.

It is deeply concerning that, in the midst of an ongoing affordability crisis, the State is considering legislation that would raise gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and licensing costs. These increases may seem modest in isolation, but to families already struggling to make ends meet, they represent yet another barrier to stability. Many of the people I serve rely on their vehicles not only to commute to work but also to access medical care, buy groceries, and take their children to school. For them, increased transportation costs can be the difference between staying afloat and falling behind.

Oregon's working poor should not be expected to bear the weight of balancing the state's budget. At a time when inflation is driving up the cost of essentials—food, rent, utilities—it is neither fair nor wise to add to their burden. These proposed tax increases are regressive in nature; they disproportionately affect those with the least disposable income while providing little to no relief or offset.

I urge lawmakers to explore more equitable, measured alternatives.

Please do not move forward with HB 2025 in its current form.

Thank you for your service and consideration.