

# Online Submission – Written Testimony in Opposition to Oregon House Bill 2025

## Submitted to the Oregon House Committee on Transportation

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned Oregon resident, I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill 2025. While I understand the importance of maintaining and upgrading our state's transportation infrastructure, HB 2025 places an overwhelming financial burden on everyday Oregonians and small businesses without offering sufficient safeguards, fairness, or accountability.

### ■ Massive Tax Increases on Everyday Oregonians

This bill raises the gas tax from 40¢ to 55¢ per gallon—a 37.5% increase—and then ties it to inflation, creating a mechanism for continuous, automatic increases. This will disproportionately affect rural and working-class residents who rely heavily on their vehicles.

The bill also includes registration fee hikes of up to 270%, a 2% tax on all new vehicle purchases, and a 1% tax on used vehicle sales over \$10,000. These changes increase the cost of vehicle ownership at a time when affordability is already strained across the state.

Additionally, the proposed payroll tax increase from 0.1% to 0.3% represents a 114% hike, costing the average Oregon worker approximately \$205 annually—regardless of whether they even use the transportation system being funded.

### ■ Harm to Business and the Supply Chain

The alignment of diesel fuel taxation with gasoline will significantly raise costs for trucking, farming, and construction sectors. These increases are likely to be passed on to consumers through higher prices on groceries, building materials, and essential goods.

### ■ Mileage-Based Road Fees Penalize Rural Residents

A road usage charge based on mileage disproportionately impacts rural Oregonians and those with long commutes. Without adequate public transit options, these residents are effectively penalized for where they live and work.

### ■ Lack of Oversight and Accountability

There are no clear guidelines or enforcement mechanisms ensuring that the new revenue will be used efficiently or equitably. Oregonians deserve transparency and performance benchmarks before being asked to pay significantly more.

### ■ Conclusion and Recommendation

I respectfully urge lawmakers to reject HB 2025 unless it is drastically amended to:

- Scale back or eliminate regressive tax and fee increases

- Provide carve-outs or relief for rural and low-income residents
- Introduce strong transparency and auditing requirements
- Tie all revenue to measurable, publicly reported infrastructure outcomes

Without these reforms, HB 2025 is an unsustainable and unfair approach to funding Oregon's transportation future. Thank you for your consideration.