

June 11, 2025

To the members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

It seems, that every month or so I am compelled to write a letter in opposition to another bill being proposed by the democratic leadership for Oregon. As I have said in the past, Oregon over the last several years has ended up in the national news for all of the wrong reasons to include an attempt to add fewer restrictions to the country's 1st euthanasia bill, to a current ranking in the lower third of k-12 education in the country.

A few statistics list Oregon as the 10th highest US Gas Tax Rate, Cents per Gallon, January 2024, and in its latest reporting, the U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) ranks Oregon sixth highest in income taxation, among the 50 U.S states (when combining local, state and federal income taxes for each state) and the 8th highest cost of living among the 50 U.S states. For more information see ((<https://oregoncatalyst.com/83776-oregon-bottom-ten-states-real-after-tax-income.html>)).

My real question is why are you now making an attempt at cutting a blank check to bureaucrats while the bill does little in the way of ensuring ODOT spends this money wisely. Just two days ago Democrats finally admitted that their costly transportation wishlist, HB 2025, will cost families across Oregon “over \$1 billion per year” in new taxes and fees.

(<https://x.com/OregonHouseGOP/status/1932273718623162471>) With over 35 taxes and fee increases -- including a 37.5% increase in the gas tax, a new sales tax on cars (in addition to the privilege tax we are already paying), and a tripling of the tax on wages -- HB 2025 will hit every Oregonian's income bottom line.

Why not do something spectacular and begin to work with your colleagues in the house and senate to propose legislation that is bipartisan, works for all Oregonians, and helps to bring common sense decision making back to one of the more beautiful states in the nation.

Concerned Oregonian,

Dennis Schultz