

Submitter:

Christina Buehler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Christina Buehler. I'm a Native American mother raising 3 children in Washington County. We are a single-income family—my husband, a proud U.S. veteran, provides for us while I homeschool our children.

But Oregon is no longer a place where working families can get ahead. One by one, we've watched friends and relatives leave—pushed out by rising costs and nonstop taxes. HB 2025 will push even more families like mine to the edge.

We spend over \$1,500 a month just on groceries. If gas taxes and vehicle fees rise, food prices will follow. That may look minor in a spreadsheet—but for us, it means no more family dinners out. And that lost spending hurts our local restaurants too.

Our daughter began early college at Clackamas Community College when she was just 15. It's a huge opportunity—but it costs us over \$100 weekly in gas for college alone. HB 2025 would make that cost unbearable. Families like mine will be forced to pull bright, motivated students from early college—not because of a lack of effort, but because of barriers we can't afford to cross.

We already pay public school taxes, even though our children do not attend public schools—because we don't feel they are safe or stable. Like many families, we've chosen private education, which means we also pay to transport our children ourselves. That includes fuel, maintenance, and insurance—expenses we shoulder to protect and educate our kids.

Now, under HB 2025, we're being asked to pay even more in vehicle taxes and gas fees. That includes funding school bus systems we don't use, even as those systems are struggling. Oregon school districts are cutting staff, routes, and services—yet this bill places more weight on families already stepping in to fill the gaps.

We're being taxed twice: once for a service we can't rely on, and again for providing our own. HB 2025 punishes responsible families for doing what the state cannot.

What scares me most is what this bill means for our future. Oregon is becoming unlivable for the next generation. Our kids see no path to raising families here. If we keep driving working people out, who's left to support the economy?

HB 2025 isn't just a tax—it's a warning. It's proof that the voices of working families, veterans, homeschoolers, and responsible citizens are being ignored.

As a mother, a Native woman, a wife of a veteran—I am asking you: do not balance this budget on the backs of families like mine. We need solutions that reflect our sacrifices, not punish them.

House Republicans have suggested cuts to wasteful spending in the Department of Transportation. Those ideas should be on the table before you demand more from us.

We are not just numbers—we are your neighbors, your fellow Oregonians, and we are exhausted. I no longer feel like a citizen with a voice. I feel like tax cattle—every

mile we drive, every gallon we pump, every daily necessity is tracked and taxed. This bill doesn't represent shared sacrifice. It represents government greed at the expense of families already doing everything right. Vote NO on HB 2025.