

Submitter: Staci S
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025
Testimony Opposing HB 2025
To the Members of the Committee:

My name is Staci Smith and I'm writing today as a concerned Oregonian, Grandparent, and parent. I strongly oppose HB 2025 because this bill will hurt — and in many cases cripple — the very people who are already struggling to make ends meet: working families, rural communities, and local small businesses.

Working Families Can't Afford This Burden

Raising the gas tax from 40¢ to 55¢ per gallon — a 37.5% increase, tied to inflation — is a direct hit to household budgets. Oregonians are already paying more for groceries, housing, and utilities than any other state in the union except CA, & WA (coincidence I think not). Adding a growing gas tax that never stops increasing will force many families to make impossible choices: fuel to get to work or food for the table.

Rural Communities Will Be Hit the Hardest

For those of us in rural areas, public transportation isn't a realistic option. We rely on our vehicles for everything — work, school, medical appointments, and basic errands. The new gas tax, the used car tax, and a 2% tax on new vehicles punish rural Oregonians simply for living outside the city. It's unfair and deeply out of touch with how our communities function.

Small Businesses Will Struggle to Survive

HB 2025 also proposes a payroll tax increase from 0.1% to 0.3%, a 114% hike. For small businesses already operating on tight margins, this is a huge blow. It may not sound like much on paper, but to a small team or family-run business, it could mean fewer hires, reduced hours, or even closures.

Registration Fee Hikes — Up to 270%

The proposed registration fee increases are excessive and punitive. These are costs that hit everyone — families, farmers, independent contractors, tradespeople — simply for owning a vehicle. This doesn't just hurt individuals; it slows down local economies that rely on mobility and access.

In summary: HB 2025 is a sweeping and deeply harmful bill that shifts the cost of infrastructure entirely onto the backs of everyday Oregonians. If passed, it will raise the cost of living, weaken small businesses, and punish rural communities for their

geography. I urge you to reconsider this bill and find solutions that don't disproportionately target those who can least afford it. Remember who your tax payers are, We are the hard working Oregonians who pay your salaries, and expenses, without us there is no YOU.

Sincerely,

Already struggling Oregonian with 2 full time jobs.