

Submitter: Sarah Furber
On Behalf Of: Over-taxed Citizens
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025
Members of the Committee,

I am respectfully submitting testimony in strong opposition to the proposed increases in the gas tax, car tax, wage tax and DMV fees.

Raising the gas tax disproportionately affects those who can least afford it. Many working-class families rely on their vehicles for commuting to jobs that may be miles from home, and not accessible by public transit.

The proposed hikes to DMV fees are yet another hidden cost that adds to the financial strain of simply being a law-abiding vehicle owner. DMV services are not luxury goods - they are basic government functions.

Car taxes punish ownership, and are a penalty on mobility and independence. First, Cash for Clunkers caused used car prices to skyrocket, now taxing new cars will further penalize people who are already struggling.

Taxing labor at a time of inflation when the cost of living has increased, is craven. Workers should not be punished for earning a paycheck. We should be encouraging productivity and self-reliance, not taxing it. Increasing the wage tax is going to discourage new businesses from setting up shop here, and make it harder for local employers to attract talent. Pay attention to the companies that have already decided to leave the state.

We need smart tax policies - not blunt instruments that push working families closer to the edge.

I urge you to vote no on these proposed tax and fee increases to protect essential services without overburdening those least able to afford it.

Thank you,
Sarah Furber
Over-taxed Citizen