

Submitter: Michael Brainard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Chairs McLain & Gorsek, Vice-Chairs Starr & Boshart Davis, and the rest of the Joint Committee for Transportation Reinvestment

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 2025, which proposes new taxes and fees that will further strain the financial stability of hardworking Oregonians.

Many families across our state are already grappling with rising costs—be it for housing, utilities, or everyday essentials. Introducing additional financial burdens through increased taxes and fees will only exacerbate these challenges. Rather than imposing new costs, our focus should be on finding innovative solutions to reduce existing expenses and support our communities.

This committee should consider that the Oregon Department of Transportation needs to reduce the space it is leasing. For example, several cubicles in the state building are unused, and the department should consider downsizing its office space.

The payroll tax for public transportation is criminal. The State is taking money from every employee across the state to fund a program that is inaccessible to most employees. My local transportation buses don't even go to my place of work. The transit system is inconvenient as it adds several critical minutes of waiting for the bus. I could often walk to where I needed to go before a bus could get me there.

ODOT's response to emergencies is pathetic. When trees fall, it takes them days to clear the roads. Sure, they cut the tree off the road, leaving the mess for days before finally picking it up.

The DMV shouldn't issue driver's licenses to people not legally in the US. They also shouldn't be registering people to vote. Until better checks and balances can be implemented, the DMV should stick to issuing licenses to Oregon residents and those with valid visas, administering driving tests, and not issuing licenses to illegals or registering people to vote.

Our roads are failing in many cities in my county because critical infrastructure under the roads is failing/collapsing.

Also, residents should be forced to pay tolls when they already have to pay fuel or road mileage taxes.

I urge you to consider families' economic hardships and vote against HB 2025. Our priority should be to alleviate, not add to, the financial challenges of Oregonians.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and vote no on HB 2025

Sincerely,

Michael Brainard