

Submitter: Sean Connolly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I oppose this legislation.

The State of Oregon has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

The State's revenue has doubled in approximately the last 10 years. It has chosen not to govern and provide services that grow Oregon's economy and quality of life, but to performatively pursue giving benefits and pursuing policies that satisfy a political agenda but has only had marginal positive impact on a few with a significant outlay of cash. Not an equation for success. This has given us a poor technology infrastructure in the state leading to tremendous leaks of personal information from government databases, inability to register 18,000 sex registrants as required by law (now the Governor's office is seeking to change the requirements for registration instead of fulfilling the registration), and a backlog of transportation projects that negatively impact Oregon citizens and business activity. The Oregon Way is to spend more money instead of better prioritizing their spending. However their ideas for increasing taxes from 50% to 400% depending on the tax implicated is not coming from the pockets of Oregon politicians - it's coming from the pockets of working Oregonians who see less and less benefit from either the Oregon government or from the money left in their wallets. Current policies have made Oregon one of the most expensive states to live in - but the Governor and legislature want to make it more expensive. Spend smarter, not in greater amounts. We have to spend within our means so why shouldn't the Oregon government.

The State of Oregon has a will problem, not an authority problem.

This legislation is trying to look better by adding "accountability" measures to ODOT. This is absurd as the ODOT ultimately answers to the Governor's office and the purse strings of the legislature. Who was watching ODOT's bank account when it could not account for millions of dollars and couldn't manage their project cost outlays? If no one was doing that already, they aren't going to do that going forward. This is performative nonsense. Either the executive branch and legislative branch hold ODOT accountable or they won't. This Legislation won't give them the will. More authority isn't necessary - they just need the will power to do what is right. But instead it is easier to ask for more money than manage their executives. That is why no one is fired until there is public outrage for their malfeasance. See recent events in Department of Revenue, Oregon Youth Authority, and Oregon Unemployment. Terrible things aren't managed early. They fester, finally come out publicly, and the only "answer" by Oregon politicians is more taxpayer money. The answer is better

management at the top of the State of Oregon. Please don't enable this continued outrageous cycle on the backs of taxpayers in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.