

Submitter: Randall Shafer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment, Oregonians, Elected Officials,

In the face of serious budget deficits, this bill is simply another back door of sales taxes to fund an inefficient, fumbling and unaccountable portion of the State of Oregon Bureaucracy. For too long, ODOT has mismanaged funds, projects and budgets with zero consequences. None of you, in private sector work, would survive the project disasters that have occurred in the management of ODOT. No accountability, no revision of budgeting to reflect real funds, no recognition of how the existing budget can still successfully accomplish projects.

In light of this, this bill's furtherance tells me as an Oregon resident and taxpayer that you support this back door taxation and funding without responsibility. This is Oregon, not California, not Washington. There is no need for our state to duplicate the failings of other states simply based on the merit of proximity. Please stand with Oregonians and oppose this measure with meaningful reform and accountability to this infrastructure giant in our State. This bill allows a system of cronyism appointments for leadership, with theater accountability and inconsequential threats of endless recommendations from auditors. This means that you have crafted this legislation with no solution but to pour more taxpayer dollars, without their consent, into the trough of an already horribly functioning bureaucracy.

I encourage you, in the name of oversight, transparency and credibility, to at least recognize in your discussions, the number of testimonies opposing this measure as you pretend that the public supports the institutionalization of un-voted sales taxes. I will remember you every time I purchase gas in this State as the people who are elected to protect Oregonians and their wallets and instead have decided to open our wallets, take out more money and give it to a mismanaged, unapologetic bureaucracy that has no accountability.

Thank you,

Randy Shafer