

## **RE: ESSENTIAL WORKER OPPOSES HB 2025**

To: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Co-Chairs Sen. Gorsek and Rep. McClain,

My name is Manuel, and I am a registered Democrat. But after this bill, I will no longer be a registered Democrat. I am an essential worker. It means I have to go into work, and at specific hours, and cannot have the “flexibility” to drop into Salem to testify. During the pandemic, you legislators praised us. I helped keep delivery orders fulfilled for Oregonians, and now I fix software, computers, and IT issues- on site. And because wages have not kept up, my 36-year-old self will never get to own a home.

I will be the one paying the increased gas tax to get to work, while the rest of those wanting these increases, get to work from home. I will also be the one paying the increased payroll tax, double registration fees, and more Road User Charges because I drive more than the person who teleworks.

Democrats love to say they are concerned about the cost-of-living crisis in Oregon, but you guys are the main drivers of that crisis. You have spat on the essential workers keeping your state running. I understand the need for road and bridge fixes, but here isn't even one proposal in here to tax the rich. It's all taxes that impact working people.

You have also failed to hold ODOT accountable. We funded megaprojects in 2017, and they haven't broken ground. This should be criminal. Please stop asking working people to subsidize your own inefficiencies and special interest lobbyists.