

Submitter: Whitney Grizzle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

There are too many issues with this transportation bill to address them all so I have touched on the main ones below.

1. Adding a mileage tax is a VERY bad idea. By adding this tax we are taxing truck drivers, log truck drivers etc. Those drivers/businesses will simply pass that tax on to the consumers because they cannot afford to lose that profit. Oregon citizens are already struggling to keep up with rising costs. How can citizens be expected to pay even more for necessities like groceries, when citizens have already seen an average increase of 25% in groceries over the last five years? Not to mention if we allow a mileage tax for some drivers now, it will only open the door to tax all Oregon citizens by the mile in the future. Meaning drivers of gas powered vehicle would be double taxed.

2. Secondly, the increase in payroll tax will again only hurt Oregon citizens who are struggling with the rising costs of living. This issue does not need more explanation.

3. As an Oregonian taxpayer I am also very concerned about the previous and future management of funds. ODOT and Trimet should be operated like a business. Any business who runs out of money has to cease operations or change how things are done, as they don't have unlimited funds. These entities cannot expect Oregon taxpayers to keep forking out money simply because they are wasteful with the money they have already been given.

4. Many Oregonians should also be concerned with the fact that lawmakers have already determined where a large majority of the money they anticipate getting should go, and most of it goes to the Portland area to fund projects that have already cost taxpayers billions of dollars. In the bill it specifically states that Region 1 of ODOT, which is the Portland area, will receive 250 million of those tax payers dollars while Region 4, which is most of eastern Oregon, will only receive 76 million. As someone who does not live in Portland I am tired of Portland benefitting from my taxes rather than my taxes going to help support transportation in my own community.

In conclusion, I absolutely DO NOT support this bill.