

Submitter: Denver Pugh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

My name is Denver Pugh and I am a sixth generation farmer in the Shedd area of Linn County and I adamantly oppose HB 2025.

I am deeply disappointed, yet not surprised, that majority leaders in this state feel the only way out of the years of mismanaging Oregon's Department of Transportation is to increase taxes on the hard working citizens of this once great state. I am equally dumbfounded that these leaders think that Oregonians can even financially support a multitude of tax hikes such as the ones suggested in this bill. I'm only guessing the ideology behind this is the thought that a few cents hike here and a few dollars hike there, won't hurt most individuals, but I'm testifying that you are wrong. These increases only puts another nail in our coffin with our ability to survive in this state at risk. Sooner or later, if common sense doesn't set in with the majority rulers, my family, who as been in Oregon 13 years before Oregon gained it's statehood, will be forced to sell the farm and move to a friendlier state where a citizen's hard work is praised and not taxed to death.

If you are actually reading this, I am sure you can tell the frustration in my words. I am frustrated because I am tired. Tired of constantly having to fight for my ability to live in a place my family has called home for nearly 180 years. I'm sure you've heard farmers use the phrase that we are price takers not price setters. This means that the markets dictate the price we receive for our products we produce and we have no control over this. We can not simply raise the price of our products to cover any extra expenses it takes to grow our products. Instead, we have to tighten our budgets, decrease our spending where we can, and downsize if necessary. These are all things the state government need to be doing too. You are price takers not price setters. Plain and simply manage better. With this said, the only thing in HB 2025 I can get on board with is the audits. You need to first figure out where the money is going and how it was spent before you go demanding more money you don't know how to manage properly.

For these reason, I urge you to take a step back, look at where the money you had went, plug the holes and trim the fat before you go after any more of many hard working Oregonian's dollars. Until this happens, I urge you to please oppose HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Denver Pugh
President/Owner
Pugh Seed Farm
Shedd, OR