



OREGON GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

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**HB 2025
Testimony in Opposition
Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment
June 12, 2025**

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2025.

The Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA) is a nonprofit membership organization composed of water well constructors, well pump and water treatment contractors, hydrogeologists and engineers, manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, water rights examiners, and other various trades engaged with the groundwater resource. From these various disciplines, we have the benefit of receiving many perspectives on proposed legislation.

The OGWA opposes HB 2025, primarily due to the numerous costly tax and fee increases, as well as new fees. We oppose the proposed hikes, including the 37.5% increase to the gas tax, over \$70 in new title fees, \$50+ in new registration fees, a 2% sales tax on new cars, and an entirely new per-mile-driven tax.

The cost of living in Oregon, not to mention the cost of running a business, has become untenable. During this legislative session, in particular, we have seen numerous pieces of legislation promoting government overreach and costly fees and regulations. In the area of water law alone, legislation is currently before Ways and Means that would increase numerous fees assessed by the Water Resources Department as much as 135 percent!

These cost increases in so many areas, including transportation, that touch each Oregonian are not sustainable. The OGWA, like many of our allies, favor an alternative approach soon to be reflected in HB 3982. That proposal will preserve core services and correct an inequity to Oregon truckers that has been allowed to continue for years, while encouraging efficiency.

For these reasons, the OGWA strongly opposes HB 2025 and encourages you to vote no.
