

Submitter: Jacob Apenes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Hello Joint Committee on Transportation,

For the record, my name is Jacob Apenes. I'm 26 years old, from Portland, and a member of Sunrise Movement PDX.

My commute to work is long. Each morning, I take a forty minute bus to downtown, followed by another forty minute bus to an office park in Lake Oswego. With a break in between and a walk to the office, my daily commute one way is an hour and forty minutes.

It's a long commute, much longer than the 25 minute car ride most of my coworkers take. But it's my only option. As someone who doesn't have a car, transit is the only safe option I have to get to work. TriMet's bus network is quite literally a lifeline for job security and my ability to pay rent each month. I know I'm not alone in this need for transit.

I'm here to ask for the STIF to be increased to 0.5%. While a payroll tax rate of 0.3% is a good start, our ability to expand service to more people and places depends on your ability to eventually increase the STIF to 0.5%.

For reference, my income for last year was around \$50,000. With a 0.5% STIF, I would have paid around \$250 based on that rate. That's \$250 for a lifeline to work. \$250 dollars for expanded bus service in rural and urban Oregon. \$250 for an environmentally friendly, affordable, safe, and effective way to get around my town for an entire year.

The cost of the STIF is minuscule compared to the cost of car ownership. I know my ability to pay a slightly higher tax will allow me and all Oregonians the freedom to move around Oregon without a car.

Please amend HB 2025 to set the final STIF increase to 0.5%.

Please tax me more so thousands of Oregonians from across the state can have access to high quality transit.

Thank you.