

June 12, 2025

TO; The Joint Committee on Transportation

ATTENTION: Co- Chair Gorsek, Bosshart – Davis, Co. Starr.-Chair McLain & Members of the committee

FROM: Laurie Kimmell,

SUBJECT: HB 2025

ATTENTION: FOR ALL REVIEWING AUTHORITIES.

1. Please accept my testimony in opposition of HB 2025. HB 2025 puts a severe strain on disabled veterans. Some veterans are barely making a living and those who are severely disabled and cannot work. They cannot make up the income lost with the proposed raise for the state's 40-cent-per-gallon gas tax, by 15 cents. Some veterans and their dependents live on as little as \$995.00 a month. Some veterans must transport themselves to their appointments and those on the south coast must provide their own transportation to the Roseburg VA hospital. They cannot afford another raise in the gas tax. The Oregon disabled veterans or surviving spouse property tax exemption is only a 10% reduction. Disabled veterans must have a 40% VA disability to qualify. Oregon needs to do a better job in watching out for our veterans not raise an already high gas tax, and be a problem solver instead of a tax collector.

2. Oregonians rank **# 3** in nation as the **poorest** due to high taxes (18% more in personal income tax which in this proposal would raise the personal income tax, CAT tax which reduces Oregon jobs and shrinks personal income). The Oregon State government is ranked **fourth biggest** in the nation by per capita spending. Oregon has more tax cash than **46 other states**. When is a true audit going to be done on the budget and ODOT? When are Oregon's problems going to be solved instead of throwing more cash at the problem like California?

Thank you,

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LAURIE KIMMELL, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)