

Submitter:

Christopher Harley

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Christopher Harley, and I am a longtime resident of West Linn, Oregon. I'm writing today to express my strong opposition to HB 2025, the proposed transportation package that would impose over \$1 billion in new taxes and fees on Oregonians—despite serious and ongoing concerns about how current transportation dollars are being spent.

Let's start with the math:

- Since 2015, ODOT's budget has increased by 100%.
- Over the same period, the Consumer Price Index has only risen about 35%.
- Yes, materials have gone up—steel by 73%, concrete by 65%, and asphalt by 25%—but these increases do not justify a doubling of ODOT's budget.
- Despite the surge in spending, our roads and bridges are in worse condition.
- Potholes are multiplying, routine maintenance is deferred, and core infrastructure is visibly crumbling.

This is not simply a matter of funding—this is a matter of accountability. The public deserves to know how billions of dollars have been spent, and why the condition of our transportation system continues to decline.

And now, HB 2025 seeks to reward that mismanagement by piling on new taxes, fees, and policies that will hurt working families and small businesses:

- Tolling is back on the table, despite widespread opposition across the region.
- Road Usage Charges will introduce government surveillance and compliance burdens without solving the underlying problems.
- And all of this is happening while ODOT continues to cut staff and neglect maintenance.

Let's also not forget: ODOT received \$3.7 billion in 2021 from the federal Build Back Better infrastructure plan. That should have produced noticeable improvements—but we've seen none. The roads are worse. The public is frustrated. And this bill offers no answers—only more taxes.

As a citizen, a taxpayer, and a father concerned about Oregon's future, I urge you: Vote NO on HB 2025.

We need transparency, performance audits, and a clear return on investment before even considering another dollar in new taxes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher Harley
West Linn, Oregon