

Submitter:

Russell Bohanon

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Honorable committee members,

I implore you to vote against HB2025. It was sneakily put together, is poorly written, and will financially cost average Oregonians dearly at a time when they just can't afford it. The description of the bill says that it directs the Division of Audits to conduct performance evaluations of ODOT. If that's all that it would do, why is the current estimate of increased taxes and fees over two billion dollars? I say estimate because even some committee members [previously] had no idea how much it would cost. Previous estimates had the cost at one billion dollars, but as mentioned that has now at least doubled.

The gasoline tax alone in HB2025 has a substantial base increase even though Oregon presently has the fourth highest gasoline prices in the country as of June 25, 2025 per AAA. Another obscene increase in the bill would have the fee for commercial drivers licenses over five hundred dollars at each renewal. That alone is a boot in the rear to the people whose jobs require a CDL. Are the authors and supporters of HB 2025 trying to put certain people out of work? It sure seems like it. The staggering number of new and increased taxes and fees is mind boggling especially since a Republican backed plan supposedly would fund the same goals as HB2025 WITHOUT billions of dollars in increases. Why take more money out of taxpayers' pockets when it isn't necessary? And why are some legislators who are in favor of these billions in new and increased taxes and fees so adamant that they resort to actions like insulting voters (Rep. Gamba's statement in February 2025 that Oregon voters are petulant children when it comes to raising taxes), verbally strong-arming fellow legislators who are in opposition (as we heard Sen. Gorsek do to Rep. Boshart Davis just last Friday), or removing members of their own party from the committee because they dare to think for themselves? (Senate President Wagner removal of Sen. Meek and then placing himself on the committee prior to withdrawing and then appointing Sens. Fredrick and Manning, two well known lockstep Democrats). With such shenanigans, one might wonder if some folks will be getting kickbacks if HB2025 passes.

Logic dictates that since much of the entire process of HB2025 has reeked of impropriety, the increasing cost to Oregon taxpayers would be unbearable for many, and there is a much less expensive alternative proposal, the bill should be defeated. Thank you for your time.