

Submitter: Mayor Scott Keyser  
On Behalf Of: 10300 Voters  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Joint Committee Members,

My name is Scott Keyser, and I serve as the Mayor of Molalla, Oregon, representing over 10,300 residents within our city limits, and just as many in the surrounding area. I'm here today to urge you to stop the proposed tax increases being considered in HB 2025.

These increases don't just impact individual taxpayers—they directly affect city budgets. This year, 67% of city and county governments reported budget shortfalls. Molalla was fortunate not to be one of them—but it was close. If these taxes move forward, we may not be so lucky next year, potentially facing layoffs and service reductions.

Molalla is a do-it-yourself kind of town. Right now, we're:

Rebuilding our sewage treatment plant

Constructing a new police station

Planning upgrades to our drinking water system

Entering year two of our Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion

All this is being done by a city team of just five people. Our departments run lean, with most staff handling multiple roles. Burdening cities like mine with higher taxes could cripple essential projects and stall progress for years.

Our businesses are already struggling. We've seen the impacts of state-imposed restrictions like the spotted owl protections that devastated our local logging industry. Now you want to ask what's left of that economy to shoulder more?

We're also at a standstill with highways 211 and 213—vital arteries in our region. In 25 years, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has not repaved either one. We're constantly told, "there's not enough money." Yet here we are again, being asked to pay more—with no guarantee of better results.

And I see ODOT's waste firsthand in my day job working in construction. I watch

them:

Run steel track excavators on paved roads, damaging asphalt

Deploy two employees in state trucks while a solar-powered traffic light handles the flow of cars

Build roundabouts that are too small for commercial traffic, blocking future growth

This isn't just mismanagement. It's failure with a price tag—and now the state wants my residents to pick up the bill.

Please, I ask you as a mayor, a taxpayer, and a fellow Oregonian: Do not pass this legislation. The people I represent can't afford it. And frankly, neither can I.

Respectfully,  
Scott Keyser  
Mayor, Molalla, Oregon