

Submitter: Tesmond Hurd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs Pham and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tesmond Hurd, and I am an employee of the Oregon Department of Transportation in Eastern Oregon. I have proudly served ODOT for seven years, currently working as a Transportation Maintenance Specialist in La Grande.

I urge the committee to move forward with House Bill 2025. Without this bill, the consequences for Oregonians—especially in rural and mountainous areas—will be calamitous. I have first-hand experience witnessing the true results of ODOT's dwindling maintenance funds. Without this funding snow removal on major mountain passes—like I-84 between Pendleton and Ontario—will be significantly delayed; lane-blocking crashes will face longer response times; preventative maintenance will be neglected, allowing small issues to escalate into safety hazards; aging equipment will continue to be costlier to maintain, decreasing our efficiency; and, most importantly, a significant portion of ODOT's workforce could lose their jobs and livelihood.

ODOT crews like mine are available 24/7, 365 days a year, responding to anything that impacts our state highways. We are deeply committed to our work and the communities we serve. We give up birthdays, holidays, nights, weekends, and time with family to respond to winter storms, crashes, landslides, wildfires, downed trees—even helping stranded travelers change their tires or get fuel. We take pride in the work we do, because we live here too. We want our friends, family, and neighbors to have safe and functional routes in their daily lives.

HB2025 is a critical step toward ensuring Oregon's roads are maintained at the standard they should be—and the level Oregonians deserve. Our state's vast and diverse economy depends on it. So does our quality of life. In rural Eastern Oregon, highways are often the only connection between communities, with few alternate routes.

The funding from this bill will empower ODOT to keep Oregon moving—for residents, businesses, and the thousands of visitors who travel our roads every day.

I fully support House Bill 2025 and respectfully urge your support as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.