

Submitter: Justin Bennett  
On Behalf Of: All Residents of Oregon  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Justin Bennett, and I am a resident of Clackamas County, Oregon. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2025, also known as the Transportation Reinvestment Package.

While I recognize the importance of maintaining and modernizing Oregon's infrastructure, I do not believe this bill represents a fair or sustainable solution. HB 2025 proposes a staggering \$14.6 billion in new taxes and fees over the next decade, placing a disproportionate financial burden on working Oregonians, especially those in rural areas and small business owners like myself.

Among the most concerning elements are:

An increase in the state gas tax from \$0.40 to \$0.55 per gallon.

Substantial hikes in vehicle registration and title fees—more than doubling current rates.

A new 2% excise tax on the sale of new vehicles, and a 1% fee on used vehicle sales.

A \$340 annual flat fee or per-mile charge for electric and hybrid vehicle owners.

For families already struggling with the high cost of living, these increases will be painful and unsustainable. For small businesses that rely on vehicle fleets, such as delivery drivers, contractors, and agricultural workers, this bill could mean thousands of dollars in new expenses every year. And for rural Oregonians, who must drive longer distances without reliable public transit alternatives, this legislation is especially harmful and regressive.

HB 2025 also risks undermining public trust. It passed the committee with a narrow, party-line vote and was pushed forward despite considerable public resistance. A bill of this magnitude, with such wide-reaching impacts, should have strong bipartisan support and robust public input, not rushed approval and political maneuvering.

There is no doubt that we need to invest in our transportation systems. But before we do, we should be looking at the systems already in place, and hold ODOT accountable. I

I urge this committee to reject HB 2025, as the financial burden on individuals, small businesses, and frankly all Oregonians is too great at this time. Oregon needs to take greater accountability in how our funds are currently being spent.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Justin Bennett  
Clackamas County, Oregon