

Submitter: Wendy Way

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Oregon is already among the most expensive states to live in, and is ranked the LEAST AFFORDABLE state for retirees by Fidelity Investments. Our gas prices are already among the highest in the nation. We simply cannot afford to pay more fees, tolls or taxes.

This state needs to do what all working families do and tighten its belt and live within its means. There is too much government waste. The answer is to run leaner, not to ask already overtaxed people to pay more.

My husband and I have lived in Oregon our whole lives, our families are trying to raise their kids here. We have seen this state, and particularly the city of Portland and its suburbs, decline tremendously. The state takes in plenty of money, but it is spending it on the wrong things. Working families need lower taxes and fees, and retirees need a more favorable tax environment.

Oregon needs to look at other states for a better plan, states like Utah, Idaho, Florida. We should not strive to be like California or Washington. Businesses are leaving our state everyday to move to a more desirable environment.

My husband and I talk every week about moving to a more affordable state for our retirement. The only thing keeping us in Oregon is our children and grandchildren. If Oregon keeps raising the cost of living here, no one will be able to afford to stay.