

Submitter: Jennifer Byington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill?2025. As an Oregonian, I already pay enough in taxes, fees, and fuel costs. This bill would only add to that burden—without addressing the underlying problems of accountability and efficiency at ODOT and other transit agencies.

There was a better alternative on the table: House Bill?3982, a two-year reform plan introduced by Republicans that would have required ODOT to balance its budget, refocus on core operations, and redirect existing funds—without raising a single new tax or fee. Unfortunately, HB?3982 never received a hearing. That's deeply frustrating for those of us who have tightened our own budgets over the past five years of economic turbulence—not to mention dealing with a more than 40% increase in utility bills since purchasing our first homes. Everyday Oregonians are expected to make ends meet with less, yet state agencies continue to grow their budgets without real accountability

If we truly expect efficiency, every federal dollar intended for transportation should be spent wisely—on roads and bridges, not programs that don't deliver. Take TriMet, for example: still operating at a multimillion-dollar deficit, with declining ridership. Why keep pumping money into underused transit when we could allocate those resources to maintaining highways and rural roads—especially in a state as geographically diverse as Oregon?

Oregon isn't a city where light rail or buses can completely replace cars. People travel to the coast, desert, mountains—or to visit family across the Cascades—and a bus just doesn't cut it. Cars are essential for mobility here. It's time we stop funding pet projects and start focusing on practical infrastructure that works for everyone.

I urge you to:

Reject HB?2025, with its massive tax hikes and expanded fees.

Bring HB?3982 forward—balance ODOT's budget, eliminate waste, and protect core transportation services with no new taxes.

Require full transparency and accountability in ODOT's budgeting and project delivery.

Let's stop asking taxpayers to foot the bill for inefficiency. Our roads—and our families—can't wait.

Thank you