

Submitter: Scott Birk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

We, as Oregonians, already pay transportation taxes that put us in the unenviable position of the Top 10 (or should I say Bottom 10) of the nation. With the proposed tax increase, it is estimated that we will ascend (descend) to the Top 5.

There has been overspending and/or no accountability for the transportation taxes we've paid for numerous projects in the state. This needs to stop!

In addition to the taxes explicitly raised in this bill, a provision to reopen the subject of tolls on the I-5 and I-205 bridges is included. How can you even consider assessing tolls on the two main access points to our state from our neighbors in Washington? It is unfair to place the majority of transportation costs for the entire state on those who must travel these two bridges to work, especially those who live in Washington.

I call on our legislators and our governor to go back and assess our state spending to find places where money can be redistributed to cover necessary road repairs and maintenance, and to eliminate unnecessary transportation programs that waste taxpayer dollars. We have already seen a mass exodus or the closing of businesses due to excessive taxation. The loss of tax revenue from businesses leaving or closing will only mean that personal income and other taxes will increase to make up the difference. You are spending the state of Oregon to death!

For the benefit of all Oregonians and for the preservation of our state, I ask you to reject HB 2025 and find other ways to take care of legitimate, necessary transportation expenditures.