

Testimony to the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Re: Opposition to HB 2025
Submitted by: Mark Gibson, President/CEO, Siskiyou Transportation & Timberland Helicopters

Co Chairs Pham and McLain, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Gibson, and I am the President and CEO of Siskiyou Transportation and Timberland Helicopters, both based in Ashland, Oregon. Siskiyou Transportation provides trucking services across Oregon and Northern California, while Timberland Helicopters supports critical firefighting and powerline operations throughout the western United States.

I am writing to respectfully urge you **not to pass HB 2025**.

While I fully recognize the Oregon Department of Transportation's need for additional financial resources to maintain and invest in our infrastructure, HB 2025 includes numerous provisions that are **unfairly burdensome to the trucking industry**—a sector essential to Oregon's economy.

Specifically:

- The bill **removes important language** that would allow for adjustments to weight-mile taxes based on findings from the Highway Cost Allocation Study. This eliminates a key mechanism to ensure fairness in how costs are shared among road users.
- It imposes a **12-cent increase in gas and diesel taxes beginning in 2026**. Then in 2028, trucking companies will face **both the increased diesel tax and higher weight-mile taxes**—a double hit to our industry.
- The policy package was developed **without input** from those who directly fund and rely on Oregon's transportation system. The lack of stakeholder engagement is deeply concerning.
- The bill proposes **significant fee increases—many over 100%—and introduces new fees** that will further strain small and medium-sized businesses.
- It also **redirects Highway Trust Fund dollars**, which are paid by vehicle owners specifically for the maintenance of Oregon's roads, to non-highway uses—contradicting the fund's purpose.

As someone with deep roots in both the trucking and aviation sectors, I can attest to the essential role transportation companies play in delivering goods, services, and emergency support across our state and beyond. HB 2025, as currently written, undermines our ability to continue doing so efficiently and affordably.

I urge the committee to vote **NO** on HB 2025 and instead pursue a funding approach that is transparent, equitable, and developed in partnership with the very stakeholders it affects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Mark Gibson
President/CEO
Siskiyou Transportation & Timberland Helicopters
Ashland, Oregon