

Submitter:

Rosemary Fleming

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

To my Oregon Legislative Members, one and all,

I understand the need to remain Fiscally responsible to the Oregon Taxpayers for the taxes collected on their behalf and to necessitate the need to make adjustments when necessary. However, I also need to remain fiscally responsible in my own household which has become harder and harder with each passing year. I know I am not alone in this struggle and that struggle goes across most wage brackets to include those on fixed incomes and those in the lower wage brackets taking the brunt of the struggle.

My veteran husband passed away at 62 in 2018. Two years later Covid hit, then the recession and now inflation. This makes living on what I have, social security and a part time job at 71 a losing battle. I have to pay taxes through payroll taxes, property taxes, social security taxes (among a host of other taxes) while meeting my financial obligations. I no longer have what was once considered "disposable" income. I have had to make sacrifices such as maintaining my landscape, split my own wood (did you know electricity has gone up 43%+ since 2021?) Crawling up on my roof to clear it of leaf debris, climb to the top to clean my chimney, clean out my gutters, do all household repairs of which I have siding, roof and painting that were planned to be done the year my husband passed. Each and every other service I pay for (phone, groceries, T.V. (of which I have cancelled several streaming services), vehicle repairs, insurance (car and home), garbage, sewer, water, gas, vision and dental (can't afford this insurance) etc.

I take no trips anywhere, I never go to the movies, I go out to eat (which I pay for) 2 times a month as my only social connection. I live by the motto "if I can't eat it or it doesn't pay a bill I can't have it." I could go down a rabbit hole of disparaging comparisons but that would not serve the purpose of what I am attempting to convey. I am being as responsible as possible but just how much longer that can last is highly questionable to say the least. HB2025 will be the tipping point for far too many. I implore you to consider workable alternatives that will better afford Oregon Residents to be able to stay in their homes and continue enjoying the life they built here (some with ancestry from wagon train days like mine).

I submit this testimony respectfully and with great hope,

Rosemary Fleming