

Submitter: Heather Ward

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB2025 – A Crushing Burden on Working Oregonians

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing as a hard-working Oregonian who is deeply concerned—and frankly, outraged—by the proposed tax increases in HB2025. As it stands, Oregon is already one of the most heavily taxed states in the country. We pay:

9.9% personal income tax—the 5th highest top marginal rate in the U.S.

No sales tax statewide, yet we still struggle with unaffordable living due to high fees, hidden taxes, and excessive cost of services.

Now, under HB2025, you're proposing:

An increase in the gas tax from \$0.40 to \$0.55 or even \$0.80 per gallon

A \$50 increase in vehicle registration

A \$70 increase in vehicle title fees

A new 2% sales tax on new vehicles, and 1% on used

A per-mile tax on medium-duty vehicles, which will raise the cost of delivering goods

A tripling of the transit payroll tax from 0.1% to 0.3%

Doubling the Auto Dealership privilege tax from 0.5% to 1%

These increases would be permanent fixtures in the ODOT budget—yet we've seen no accountability or performance to justify giving ODOT more money. For example, the Rose Quarter project, funded in 2017, remains incomplete, and now the cost has ballooned to \$2 billion. Where did the original funds go?

TriMet is currently facing a \$74 million deficit and asking for more money—yet there's no comprehensive financial transparency, no reform, and no measurable success.

I drive for a living. I pay my taxes. I make six figures and still struggle to keep up in a

state that keeps increasing costs at every turn. This isn't sustainable. This isn't just.

It's no wonder more than 74,000 people left Oregon between 2020 and 2023, with thousands of businesses—small and large—leaving or closing their doors due to high taxation, regulatory burdens, and runaway costs. Intel, Nike, and other major employers are expanding elsewhere. Oregon is becoming unaffordable for the very people who keep it running.

It is time state agencies like ODOT and TriMet learn to live within their means and prioritize the basics: safe roads, responsible budgeting, and transparency.

I am strongly opposed to HB2025. New taxes and tolls will cripple our economy, drive more families and businesses out of Oregon, and punish those of us who are just trying to live and work with dignity.

Please vote NO on HB2025.

Sincerely,

Heather Ward
Sherwood, Oregon
SVP Business Development, Care Fusion RX