



June 26, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Charbonneau District of Wilsonville has been actively engaged in finding transportation solutions for Oregon in the manner of concerned, engaged civic involvement. We have submitted testimony from our participation in the roadshows last year, and since, as an executive summary to this committee and the governor, aimed at sensible, sustainable transportation solutions for our state and the prosperity of its citizens.

We believe a transportation package without COLA adjustments is missing the boat. Having revenue sources adjusted on the cost of living is a no-brainer. It prevents the state from falling behind and playing catchup as it does all too often. Forty-something states have paved the way on this common sense component of paying for their states' transportation.

Another parts of the package that is of concern is the large initial increase in the fuel tax right out of the gate, instead of phasing it in over a reasonable period. A 25 - 30% increase will inevitably result in sticker shock for consumers, and put you, the legislators who enacted it, on the defensive. Picking another fight with anti tax crusaders seems unnecessary.

Stabilizing revenue is paving Oregon's path to sustained prosperity. Doing nothing doesn't create opportunity, but extinguishes it. It's about investing in Oregon's future. That 50% of state highway funds are returned to the communities from where they originated is a winning investment formula.

Lastly. More robust accountability in the form of performance measurement, audits, cost benefit and return on investment analysis, reporting to the public, and personnel assessments are vital for citizens of Oregon to regain trust in a department whose credibility is in the basement. We hope restructuring the department, and making executive changes is on the table in resetting ODOT to be more accountable, more transparent, and functioning at a higher level of performance for the dollars allocated to them.

In summary:

- yes to COLA, for stabilizing revenue;
- no 25-30% gas tax increase on day 1, to prevent blowback;
- greater accountability and performance measurement, for better performance;
- restructure the department, to restore trust;
- goal of stable sustainable, reliable revenue, and efficiently putting funds to work.

Thank you for doing your best to meet the needs of Oregonians, and our expectations of having prosperous, quality lives, helped by strategic investments in our state's future.

Respectfully,

*David E. Mauk*

Charbonneau Country Club | Vice President of the Board

Chair, Civic Affairs Committee

Charbonneau District #1 Voting Precinct in Oregon

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