

Submitter: Amanda Sullivan-Astor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs Pham and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on HB 2025-A28.

I'm a working parent with two young children under the age of three. Like many young families in Oregon, we are carefully balancing the rising cost of housing, groceries, and childcare. The steep tax and fee increases proposed in this bill on everything from car registrations to payroll deductions will hit families like mine hard. We depend on our vehicles daily to get to work, daycare, and medical appointments. A 163% increase in registration fees, a 136% jump in car title costs, and new taxes on used car purchases are not sustainable for growing families trying to build a future here.

At the same time, this bill fails to correct one of the core issues we've seen for years: the lack of accountability and performance from the Oregon Department of Transportation. While HB 2025-A28 adds some additional oversight measures, the base operations of ODOT still feel disconnected from the everyday needs of our communities. We are being asked to pay significantly more without meaningful confidence that our roads will be maintained better, that major projects will be delivered on time, or that state transportation leadership will be held to a higher standard of results.

As a parent, I want to believe that Oregon's future will be better for my children. But as a taxpayer, I need to see that our dollars are being used wisely, especially before new ones are added to the burden.

I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider this amendment and adopt a more balanced path forward, one that ensures meaningful reform at ODOT comes before these record-breaking tax increases.

Please reconsider the -8 amendment proposed by Rep. Drazan.

Sincerely,
Amanda Sullivan-Astor