

Submitter: Jon Wright

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Members of the Legislature,

My name is Jon Wright, and I am a concerned Oregon citizen writing to strongly oppose House Bill 2025.

While I recognize the need to invest in our state's infrastructure and transportation systems, HB 2025 — even in its revised form — proposes one of the largest tax increases in Oregon history: \$11.7 billion over the next decade and, it does so without ANY meaningful oversight, accountability, or reform measures for the state agencies tasked with managing these funds.

How can we continue to trust the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with billions more in taxpayer dollars when they have yet to answer for the approximately \$1 billion that has already been “misplaced”? Before ODOT receives a single additional dollar, there must be a full, transparent accounting of how past funds were used — or misused.

This bill proposes nearly 20 new or increased taxes and fees, including:

- * A 12-cent increase in the gas tax, making Oregon one of the most expensive states to fill a tank.
- * A 350% increase in vehicle taxes, penalizing Oregonians who simply need reliable transportation.
- * A tripling of the payroll tax, which directly reduces workers' take-home pay and imposes new burdens on already struggling small businesses.

For many Oregon families — including mine — this isn't just a matter of principle; it's a matter of survival. We're already cutting back on groceries, gas, and basic necessities just to stay afloat. Demanding even more from working Oregonians without a clear, transparent plan is not only tone-deaf — it's irresponsible.

Good governance is built on trust, and trust must be earned. That means showing us — The People — exactly how our money will be used, who will be held accountable for results, and how this funding will truly improve the lives of everyday Oregonians.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 2025 unless and until it includes:

- * Independent oversight of ODOT spending
- * Regular performance audits and full transparency
- * Clear success metrics with consequences for failure

* A pause on all new taxes until real accountability is guaranteed

Please don't place an even greater burden on Oregon families without first fixing what's broken. We deserve more than the legislature writing a blank check. We deserve responsible, transparent leadership.

Sincerely,
Jon Wright