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June 26, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for SB 2025 – Transportation Bill

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

As you near the end of session, I write with urgency and deep concern to ask you to vote NO on HB 2025 and its newly proposed amendment.

The majority of the Oregon Legislature are now pushing changes that would saddle Oregonians with \$11.7 BILLION in new taxes—one of the largest increases in state history. The amendment includes:

- Nearly 20 new taxes and fees
- A 12¢ gas tax increase—making ours among the highest in the nation
- A 350% increase in vehicle sales taxes
- A tripling of the payroll tax
- And \$11.7 billion pulled from Oregon families over the next decade

All of this, with little accountability or reform in how ODOT spends the money we already give them.

Let me tell you what that means for people like me.

I'm a farmer—and more importantly, I'm a mom. I live in rural Oregon where it's 80 miles round trip just to get my child to school. Add after-school activities or sports practice, and that becomes 160 miles a day. I drive 57 miles to get groceries and 120 miles to access major medical care or a Costco. My mailbox is four miles away—in another county.

This is not unusual—it's our everyday reality. We don't have mass transit. We don't have alternate routes. We live where agriculture lives—and agriculture requires space. So when the Legislature proposes massive hikes in gas taxes, vehicle fees, and payroll costs, with no clear benefit to the rural roads we rely on, it feels like we're being punished just for doing the essential work of feeding Oregon.

HB 2025 proposes extracting even more from those of us who already pay our share through fuel taxes, registration fees, permits, and endless regulatory compliance. But instead of investing back into rural roads and

infrastructure, this bill diverts the majority of those funds to urban mass transit and pet projects, leaving rural families to fend for themselves.

Please don't make it harder for us to live, work, and raise families in the parts of Oregon that grow your food and support your economy.

I respectfully ask you to:

- Oppose HB 2025 in its current form
- Guarantee rural infrastructure receives a fair and equitable share of funding
- Avoid layering new taxes onto already overburdened family farms and rural households
- Include real reform and oversight in how transportation dollars are allocated and spent

This isn't just about politics. It's about survival for rural Oregon. Please don't ask us to pay more just for doing what we must, or living where we do.

Sincerely,

Erin Hansell-Heideman

Ione, OR

Farmer & Owner, Blown Away Ranch

President, Oregon Wheat Growers League