

Submitter: Chase Cota

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2025. While I understand and appreciate the stated goals of improving Oregon's transportation infrastructure, I believe the current iteration of this bill poses significant and unacceptable burdens on Oregonians, particularly in its proposed funding mechanisms.

This bill, as currently drafted, represents a substantial tax increase on the citizens of our state. The proposed increase to the gas tax, along with hikes in vehicle registration, title, and licensing fees, will directly impact the wallets of everyday Oregonians. Furthermore, the introduction of a mandatory per-mile road usage charge, even with the option of an annual fee, raises serious concerns about affordability and equity.

Oregonians are already facing significant economic pressures. Imposing these additional costs, especially on essential expenses like transportation, will disproportionately affect working families, small businesses, and those in rural areas who often have fewer public transit options and rely more heavily on personal vehicles. This could lead to increased financial strain, force difficult choices in household budgets, and hinder economic recovery.

Beyond the immediate financial impact, I am concerned about the process and transparency surrounding this bill. The rapid changes and large-scale nature of the proposed tax increases have not allowed for sufficient public discourse and input. A measure of this magnitude, impacting every resident, deserves thorough and open deliberation.

While the need for transportation funding is acknowledged, we must explore alternative, more equitable, and less burdensome solutions. We should prioritize efficient use of existing funds, explore innovative financing models that don't disproportionately burden residents, and ensure that any new revenue sources are carefully considered and widely supported.

I urge you to consider the cumulative impact of House Bill 2025 on the people of Oregon. I respectfully ask that you reject this bill in its current form and instead work towards a transportation funding solution that is fiscally responsible, equitable, and has the broad support of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chase

salem/marion County, Oregon