

Submitter:

Thomas Amundson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Tom Amundson, a resident of Sandy, Oregon. I am writing testimony in opposition of HB 2025. My wife and I are the third generation owners of a manufacturing business in Gresham, Oregon. We are a niche product line company that provides made in America plumbing products that compete against giant corporations that mainly sell imported products. We sell our plumbing products across the country and around the world and they are made right here in Oregon. We export more than we import! We employ 65 wonderful Oregon and Washington residents. We have been able to keep our staff by offering a full benefits package with annual increases every year (when profitable). The average term of employment at our company is right around twelve years. That is very difficult to achieve! Our ability to sustain this model is constantly under attack by increases in taxes, health care costs, and an ever increasing cost of living in the Portland metro area. The business climate in Multnomah County has become way too expensive to exist in due to constant increases in taxes and fees. HB 2025 will significantly raise our tax bill. If I could easily move our business I absolutely would! It sickens me to say that! We love Oregon!!! Whenever I hear a politician say, "small businesses are the backbone of our economy," I cringe! We are the doormat that you wipe your feet on and are offered more taxes instead of thanks. It is a slap in the face every year...I just don't understand how I am asked to balance my budget, pay my tax bills on time, and be transparent about my finances while the state and county are not held to the same standard. Why? How is this even allowed? In the decades that we have been in business, our little family run company has easily paid an eight figure number from payroll taxes alone. Quite an impact on the local economy. I guess that isn't enough...cause here we go again! HB 2025 is a record tax increase while the economy is wobbly, inflation is high, cost of living is even higher, rent is absurd, and you can forget about buying a house in the metro area even with a living wage. I could go on and on but I believe my point is made...DO NOT PASS HB 2025! PLEASE! We want to continue to have a success story in this great state while continuing to employ some very amazing individuals.

Kind regards,

Tom Amundson