

Submitter: Sarah Schartz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am writing to oppose House Bill 2025. I am a member of the Douglas County Farm Bureau, I raise sheep and own a small excavation business. The proposed tax hike both at the gas pumps and to payroll are too much for rural Oregonians. Those of us that have to travel to work are paying a disproportionate amount of money and not getting useful services from those tax dollars.

An example of transportation dollars spent ineffectively are sidewalk curb ramps to meet ADA/ABA standards. There are multiple intersections within Roseburg and Sutherlin that have had the curb ramps re-done several times within the last 5-10 years. The curb ramps were re-done initially to bring them up to standard – a valid and legitimate use of transportation funds. But in subsequent years, standards have changed and some of these ramps have been re-done three more times to meet the new standard each time. Let's be clear – wheelchairs of all varieties were perfectly capable of negotiating these original ramps, but because money became available, the intersections were redone. Never mind that two blocks away the sidewalk is heaved with 3-4" ledges of broken concrete and are non-negotiable by wheelchair.

Another example are the highway signs along I-5. In the last ten years, the roadside signs along I-5 in the Roseburg area have been switched out three times. Again, there is nothing wrong with the signs – standards have changed. So rather than wait until there is something wrong with the sign or it becomes damaged to replace it, miles of perfectly good signs have been removed and new ones installed. Each time, new concrete basis have been poured, not using the old ones.

The people of Oregon are in a position that they have to prioritize their spending on what is mission critical. The state should be held to that same standard. As an owner/operator in Oregon, I pay into a Workers' Compensation Fund that I will never receive benefits from, a Paid Leave Fund that I will never receive benefits from and a transportation fund that I haven't seen benefits from. Throwing more money at the problem is not the solution. Prioritizing the actual needs of Oregonians is.

Sarah Schartz

Sutherlin, Oregon