

Submitter: Rami Krayem
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3402
Written Testimony in Opposition to HB3402
To: Oregon State Legislature
From: Rami Krayem
Date: 6/27/25
Re: Strong Opposition to HB3402

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,
I am writing as a 42-year resident of Oregon to express my strong opposition to HB3402 and urge you to vote against this legislation. This bill represents yet another example of fiscal irresponsibility and disregard for the financial burden already shouldered by Oregon's working families.

Excessive Tax Increases Without Justification

HB3402 proposes significant fee and tax increases that will disproportionately impact working Oregonians:

- Gas tax increase: From \$0.34 to \$0.43 per gallon (26% increase)
- Vehicle registration: From \$43 to \$64 (49% increase)
- Vehicle title fees: From \$77 to \$168 (118% increase)

These dramatic increases come at a time when Oregonians are already struggling with inflation, rising housing costs, and the economic impacts of previous tax burdens. The cumulative effect of these increases represents an aggressive tax policy that shows complete disregard for citizens' financial capacity.

Lack of Accountability and Transparency

My primary concern with HB3402 is the absence of specific project descriptions or accountability measures for the additional revenue. The bill simply directs all gas tax revenue to ODOT's general fund with no designated projects or oversight mechanisms. This approach is fundamentally flawed for several reasons:

1. No specific spending plan: Taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their money will be used before being asked to pay more.
2. ODOT's track record: The Rose Quarter project, funded in 2017, remains incomplete despite significant public investment. Why should we provide additional funding to an agency that has failed to deliver on previous commitments?
3. Blank check governance: Directing revenue to a general fund without specific allocation is poor fiscal management and creates opportunities for waste and misallocation.

Governance Concerns

The provision allowing the Governor to appoint ODOT's director, subject only to Senate confirmation, concentrates too much power without adequate checks and balances. Given the Senate's historical pattern of confirming gubernatorial appointments, this effectively removes meaningful oversight from the appointment process.

Impact on Oregon Families

As someone who has called Oregon home for over four decades, I am deeply concerned about the state's direction. The pattern of continuous tax increases without corresponding improvements in services or infrastructure is driving long-term residents to consider leaving the state. This represents a failure of leadership and fiscal stewardship.

Working families cannot absorb endless tax increases, especially when those increases lack specific purpose or accountability measures. The aggressive nature of these proposed increases demonstrates a fundamental disconnect between our representatives and the citizens they serve.

Recommendation

I urge you to:

1. Vote NO on HB3402 in its current form
2. Demand specific project allocations before considering any revenue increases
3. Require comprehensive accountability measures for ODOT spending
4. Consider the cumulative tax burden on Oregon families before proposing additional increases

Oregon deserves responsible fiscal management, transparent spending plans, and representatives who consider the financial impact on working citizens. HB3402 fails on all these measures.

I respectfully request that you represent the interests of your constituents by opposing this legislation and working toward more responsible alternatives that prioritize accountability, transparency, and fiscal restraint.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,
Rami Krayem