

Submitter: ADRIENNE EDWARDS
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

As a lifelong Oregonian, taxpayer, and constituent, I ask that you vote "NO" on HB 3991.

HB 3991 adds new and higher taxes at a time when Oregon businesses – both large and small – are already struggling financially and are leaving the state in significant numbers. A state gas tax of nearly 50 cents per gallon would cause an extreme burden on Oregonian businesses which would increase the mass exodus of Oregon businesses from the state. Oregon has already lost major employers, such as Tektronix, Dutch Brothers, JenWeld, and others. The impact of those losses obviously hurts all Oregonians.

Oregon is already ranked fifth in the nation for total tax burden, and yet the mismanagement of tax revenue has brought little to no positive results to show for it. Why should I trust that another increase in taxes will resolve any of Oregon's problems?

The inflation of recent years has already placed an onerous burden on Oregonians. Adding more of a burden would negatively impact our quality of life even more than it already has been.

My understanding is that this proposal already failed during the regular 2025 session. Why is a special session during the Labor Day holiday weekend being called to revive a recently failed proposal? This seems like purposeful deception, which is despicable and unworthy of Oregonians' trust.

I would have liked to see a very public and detailed account of Oregon's transportation taxes, revenues, fees and expenditures before the legislature even considered a bill such as 3199. Having worked for the City of Portland for many years, I know how governmental agencies can obscure budgets and expenditures. I want to know what ODOT is spending money on specifically, not in general terms. Please follow the standard process of giving Oregonians time to review complex bills such as 3199, and allow time to give feedback.

Please vote NO on HB 3991 and instead bring forward a bill that provides clear information and that is responsive to taxpayers' needs and choices.