

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

Testimony Opposing HB3991 – Oregon Transportation Funding Bill  
Submitted by Janet Brown, Tualatin, OR

Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee—

I'm submitting this testimony as a single mother to an adult son with autism, and as a citizen who believes in responsible governance and public accountability. I strongly oppose HB3991.

This bill would impose nearly \$800 million in new taxes and fees over the next two years, including:

- A 6-cent gas tax increase
- Higher vehicle registration and title fees
- A doubling of the payroll tax for public transit
- A mandatory per-mile tracking program for electric and hybrid vehicles
- Expanded diesel fuel taxation
- And most concerning: a back-door provision in Section 12 that allows unelected bureaucrats to automatically raise gas taxes starting in 2030, without a single vote from the Legislature or the public

This is not just bad policy—it's a breach of public trust.

HB3991 is being rushed through during a holiday weekend, with quorum reached at 9 p.m. Friday night, and votes scheduled for Sunday and Monday. This timing is clearly designed to minimize public scrutiny and suppress opposition. That alone should disqualify the bill from serious consideration.

We've been here before. In 2017, Oregon passed a \$5.3 billion transportation package. That money was supposed to fund major projects like the Rose Quarter and I-205 Abernethy Bridge. Instead, we got delays, ballooning costs, and broken promises. The Abernethy Bridge alone tripled in cost—from \$248 million to over \$815 million.

Now, instead of fixing what's broken, the state is asking for more—while sidestepping constitutional safeguards and hiding the process from public view.

Yes, repealing the mandatory tolling program is a step in the right direction. But it doesn't justify the rest of this bloated, regressive package.

Before raising a single tax or fee, the Legislature must:

- Conduct a full, independent audit of ODOT and the state budget
- Deliver line-by-line transparency on past spending
- Prioritize cost controls and project delivery reforms

I urge you to vote NO on HB3991. Oregon families deserve better. And we deserve to be heard in daylight—not sidelined in the shadows.

Thank you.