

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

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 2025.

This bill represents the single largest tax increase in Oregon history, raising more than \$14 billion through new gas taxes, payroll taxes, vehicle registration fees, and sales surcharges. At a time when families across Oregon are already struggling with the rising cost of living, this proposal asks them to pay even more just to get to work, buy groceries, and support their families.

Economic Impact on Oregonians

- Regressive burden: These taxes fall hardest on working families, small businesses, and rural Oregonians who have no alternative to driving long distances.
- Payroll tax consequences: Adding a payroll tax punishes both employees and employers, discouraging job growth at a time when Oregon should be focused on recovery and affordability.
- Inflationary effect: Higher fuel and vehicle costs mean higher prices on nearly everything transported by truck — groceries, building materials, and household goods.

Accountability & Leadership Failures

House Bill 2025 shifts responsibility for years of poor planning and mismanagement at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) onto taxpayers. Instead of fixing inefficiencies, cutting unnecessary spending, or auditing current budgets, Governor Kotek is asking Oregonians to write the largest blank check in state history.

Better Solutions Exist

Oregon can address transportation funding without taxing people out of their homes and cars:

- Redirect underused or mismanaged funds within existing state budgets.
- Prioritize essential road and bridge projects over costly experimental programs.
- Increase transparency and accountability at ODOT before demanding billions more from taxpayers.

Conclusion

Oregonians deserve solutions that are fair, affordable, and fiscally responsible. House Bill 2025 is none of these. It punishes working families for the state's failure to manage its resources and should be rejected.

I urge the committee to oppose House Bill 2025 and work toward responsible, balanced alternatives that protect both Oregon's infrastructure and its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Theresa Leppin
Dundee, OR