

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

To the Governor and the members of the Joint Special Session Committee on Transportation Funding who are in favor of passing more taxes on Oregonians,

My name is Denver Pugh and I am a sixth generation farmer in Shedd. I adamantly oppose this bill or any new bills that increase taxes to support the bale out for the mismanagement of ODOT funds.

My family has been in Oregon since 1846 so the thought of moving, from this once great state, has never been a serious thought for me. However, over the recent years it is obvious that the majority leadership does not care about the history of this state or what made this state one of the best places to live in all of the United States. The massive disconnect and understanding from the majority leadership on how much more financial stress Oregonians can endure is mind blowing. It is no secret that Oregon has become one of the worst states in the nation for businesses to operate in. Oregon has been in the national news with its mass exodus of both residents and businesses looking for an economically friendlier climate. Farming and other natural resource industries are among the top leading income generators for the state but this bill and many bills previous to this one, make it nearly impossible to keep going.

Agriculture across the nation is in dire straights with record high input costs and low market pricing. For a lot of agricultural sectors, these economic stresses have been going on for two years now and we are staring at a third for 2026. Oregon farms are not exempt from this either, in fact, I'd say we are exceptionally worse off due to the many rules and tax burdens placed on us such as, the CAT tax, Minimum Wage increase, and Ag Overtime rules, just to name a few. For the last two years, my operating costs to keep my farm going have exceeded the amount of income I've received for my products. So to think that myself or many other Oregonians have the money for new or increased taxes is unimaginable to me. Where is the money to pay for these tax increases suppose to come from?

If I were running someone else's business and mismanaged funds to the extent that ODOT has, I would be out of a job with out the ability to receive bale outs from others. Just because this is a government agency the consequences shouldn't be any different. The mismanagers need to be reprimanded and the people shouldn't be the ones tasked to bale them out.

I strongly urge you to oppose any increase or new tax on us hard working Oregonians. We are the backbone that make Oregon great, PLEASE stop this before we break.

Sincerely,

Denver Pugh