

Submitter: Becky Hawkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

My name is Becky Hawkins and I'm a resident of Multnomah county. I oppose the proposed legislation in SB 1601 with -3 amendment. Oppose is not a strong enough word. Everything I've heard about this legislation makes me absolutely livid.

Cutting funding for safe routes to schools is a slap in the face for every parent who's doing their best to raise safe, healthy kids. Walking or biking to school is beneficial for children's physical, emotional, and developmental well-being. You're taking that away and replacing it with sedentary lives, preventable injuries and deaths. You're harming the Oregonians who are too young to have a say in any of this.

Cutting Amtrak funding will push lots of people toward the highways, adding to congestion and wear and tear on the roads. The 1 in 3 Oregonians who don't drive, for whatever reason, will have a harder time traveling out of town. You're leaving federal money on the table, hurting commuters, AND messing with local tourism if you cut Amtrak funding.

Putting the bicycle tax toward highway funding is just a big f*** you to bicyclists.

This bill appears to be designed to push everyone into using a car every time they need to leave their house. This will cause people who shouldn't drive (for example, due to declining eyesight and reflexes) to hang into their car keys until they crash. Do you want Oregonians to spend their lives stuck in traffic, pouring all their money into gas, insurance, car repairs, and medical bills? What a miserable, unhealthy future!

Multimodal travel is not a "nice to have." It's essential for the future of Oregon. Keep funding our transit, sidewalks, and bike paths.

Thank you for reading,
Becky Hawkins