

P.O. Box 1026 Roseburg, OR 97470 541.672.2648

RoseburgChamber.com

August 26, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Fahey and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) has a long history of advocating for and supporting funding for necessary transportation infrastructure. We recognize the importance for the mobility and safety of our citizens and, for business sustainability and economic growth. We want to see funds available to our cities and county for much-needed maintenance and infrastructure. We sincerely wanted to see a comprehensive transportation funding package from this year's Legislative Assembly and we desperately wanted to support it. While there are portions we find favorable, LC 2 in its current form, is <u>not</u> legislation we can support.

Therefore, on behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Douglas County, I respectfully request you oppose LC 2 as currently proposed.

The RACC opposes the proposed increases to workers' payroll taxes, doubling the statewide transit tax, especially as a rural community where practical public transit is unavailable to local citizens. Working Oregonians are already overburdened and overtaxed. The RACC is further concerned with LC 2's Section 12 which would grant the authority to raise gas taxes and truck fees to ODOT officials. Tax increases should be left to Oregon voters or a three-fifths majority of the Legislature under the Oregon Constitution.

The RACC is troubled over the lack of clarity in LC 2 regarding where these significant new funds would be dedicated. Highway, road, bridge maintenance? Unfinished previously-committed projects? New projects? Where are the safeguards to ensure best use of these funds to meet state and local infrastructure needs? Because, let's be honest, ODOT as a state agency, has both a credibility and a capability problem. This proposal doesn't even come close to ensuring agency accountability as good stewards of public dollars.

In its current form, LC 2 is tone deaf to the citizens and local small businesses of Oregon. We urge you to listen. We respectfully request you reject LC 2 as proposed and work together toward a transportation funding package with clearly-defined priorities; one which legitimately holds the agency accountable; and, one based in economic reality that doesn't create untenable financial hardship on Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM

President & CEO



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.