



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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September 20, 2025

Senator Rob Wagner, Co-Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Co-Chair
Senator Daniel Bonham, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Christine Drazan, Co-Vice Chair
Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Co-Vice Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

While I was out of state attending a funeral, my colleagues on the Legislative Committee advanced a letter regarding the Legislature's transportation funding package. Upon my return, I signed it as part of our city's standard legislative process. Since then, I have listened closely to the voices of Salem residents and businesses, and the message is clear: our community does not support House Bills 3991 or 3992.

I want to ensure there is no misunderstanding about where I personally stand. I strongly oppose House Bills 3991 and 3992. This proposal asks working families, small businesses, and rural residents to shoulder higher fuel taxes, registration and title fees, and an expanded payroll tax at a time when affordability is already a crisis. It also mandates a road usage charge on electric and hybrid vehicles, without viable alternatives for rural drivers who travel long distances without transit options.

Just as troubling, the bills shift authority to state agencies to raise taxes and fees automatically based on technical studies — bypassing the Legislature and the accountability Oregonians expect from their elected representatives. Taxation decisions should remain in the hands of those who are directly accountable to voters.

I find it concerning that these bills express the need for more oversight of ODOT by assigning audits to the Secretary of State's office. This acknowledgement underscores the serious concerns about ODOT's track record on cost overruns, project delays, and its billion-dollar budget deficit, yet provides no accountability to assure Oregonians that these issues will be solved. Audits should happen first, before more funds are handed to a struggling agency.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

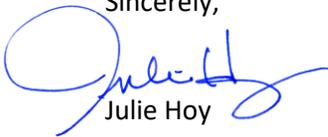
❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
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Finally, HB 3991 and 3992 alter revenue distribution formulas in ways that weaken local governments' ability to maintain and improve their own infrastructure. For cities like Salem, this is not a minor concern — it undermines our ability to serve residents effectively.

Oregon does need a strong, sustainable transportation package. But that package must be fair, transparent, and accountable. HB 3991 and 3992 fail on all three counts. I urge you to reject these bills and return with a better solution that restores public trust and delivers infrastructure improvements without overburdening the people who can least afford it.

Please regard this letter as my personal position as Mayor of Salem, not the City of Salem or Salem City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Hoy", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

Julie Hoy
Mayor of Salem