



OREGON STATE SENATE

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Governor Brown,

Roads and bridges are crumbling in every corner of Oregon, and no one was left unscathed by the failure of the transportation package in the 2015 session. Democrats' unwillingness to put aside the controversial Low Carbon Fuel Standard program has left Oregon in desperate need of transportation and infrastructure investment. Senate Republicans are committed to working across the aisle to fix our ailing transportation system, repair roads and bridges, and get business moving again.

While convening a transportation visioning team to study this issue and make recommendations is a good first step, it fails to include a conversation about the consequences of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. This partisan mandate will result in at least a 19-cent increase in gas prices for Oregonians, although the exact financial impact is still unknown and could be much higher. Senate Republicans are still unanimously opposed to this harmful mandate, which is a 'hidden' gas tax that harms hardworking taxpayers without investing one dime toward much-needed improvements to roads and bridges across the state.

Since the implementation has been delayed on this expensive mandate, there is still time to protect struggling Oregonians who are unable to afford a hidden gas tax stacked on top of a potential gas tax or additional vehicle/registration fees to fund a transportation package. If the hidden gas tax is not eliminated, we see no path forward to a bipartisan transportation package.

Cities and counties need a comprehensive transportation package, not expensive mandates that benefit out-of-state special interests. It is time to put the highest quality of life of all Oregonians first by reducing carbon and working with the legislature to create a bipartisan transportation package for 2017.

Sincerely,

The Senate Republican Leadership Team

cc: Senate President's Office
Speaker of the House
Senate Majority Office
House Majority Office
House Republican Office

SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS



OREGON STATE SENATE


Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli


Senator Herman Baertschiger, Jr.


Senator Tim Knopp


Senator Jeff Kruse


Senator Chuck Thomsen

cc: Senate President's Office
Speaker of the House
Senate Majority Office
House Majority Office
House Republican Office