



**OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

September 2, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 3991 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Central Oregonians deserve safe roads. That means keeping our passes plowed in the winter, keeping our road maintenance stations open, and ensuring we have ongoing, everyday operations that are the reason we can use our roads to get to work, safely pick up our kids from school, and make it back home. This was not an easy vote. The number one issue my constituents face in Central Oregon is affordability and cost of living, but we can't afford to postpone road maintenance. The safety of our community is my top priority, and that is why I voted yes on HB 3991 A.

If this bill does not pass, the ODOT Sisters and Detroit Maintenance Stations will close. The ODOT Sisters Maintenance Station not only employs many good, hard-working people in my district, they are the ones getting the snow off the roads at 3am and keeping our wildfire evacuation routes clear. They are responsible for keeping our roads open and the pass clear. Closing these Maintenance Stations means not having the level of road maintenance that our community expects and deserves, and it means our evacuation routes are put in jeopardy. Through the funding generated in this package, we are able to keep these maintenance stations open.

We pay for road maintenance with our state's fuel tax. Due to more fuel-efficient cars on the market and on our roads, we have seen drastic declines in gas tax revenue, leaving us with less dollars for repairs. This bill includes a six-cent fuel tax increase. Every cent of that will go to maintenance. EV drivers account for six percent of the cars on the road, and through this bill they will be paying their fair share of road maintenance through road-use charges. The cost of maintenance deferral is 8-19 dollars for every one dollar. We simply can't afford to defer maintenance projects any longer.

My job as a State Representative is to ensure we are being good stewards of the taxpayer dollar. Every dollar needs to be accounted for and spent wisely. This bill includes a 0.1 percent increase in the employee payroll tax. I do not believe this is the time to be adding the burden of a raised tax on hard working Oregonians. The payroll tax increase sunsets in 2028, and until then, I will be working to find additional funding opportunities to fill the gaps.





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ODOT has lost the trust of the legislature and the people. I am not referring to the hard workers in orange vests we see fixing our roads, I am referring to the top level of ODOT, who need to be held accountable for every dollar spent. This bill includes an independent audit that I will be looking forward to seeing and following up on how every dollar is spent. We need to restore trust.

I share the frustration of the people. We need to rethink how transportation is funded. These are expensive times and there is an opportunity to do better. This is a bare minimum package to keep our roads safe and open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EL", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Emerson Levy, State Representative HD53