

## OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

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### **Senate Republicans Suspend Participation in Transportation Workgroup**

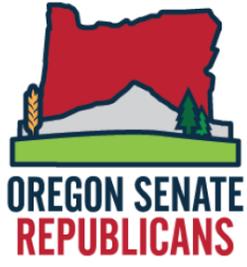
Salem, OR - Today, following a partisan vote on SB 324 in the House Energy and Environment Committee, Senate Republicans announced they would be suspending participation in a transportation work group considering a potential gas tax and/or vehicle registration fee on Oregonians.

"Senate Republicans made it clear early this session that we would not allow the Democrat supermajority to ram through policies that raise gas prices and hurt working Oregon families," said Senator Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls). "Oregon needs a comprehensive, bipartisan transportation package, but once again Democrats showed today that they are more concerned about partisan pandering than passing bills that help both rural and urban Oregonians."

Earlier this month, Senate Republicans stood in unanimous opposition to a carbon mandate pushed through with only partisan support, which is likely to raise gas prices by at least 19 cents per gallon. The hidden gas tax harms low-income and rural Oregonians and fixed-income seniors who can't afford more pain at the pump.

"We need a transportation package," said Senator Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg). "By fast-tracking SB 324 with the knowledge that it would compromise the ability of the legislature to pass a bipartisan transportation package, Democrats proved their loyalties lie with special out-of-state interests, and any pledge to help low-income and rural Oregonians is just lip service."

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