

To Whom It May Concern:

I don't have a lot of time, so let me cut to the chase. I live in Northeast Portland (801 NE 53rd Ave) and I wholly oppose the widening of any and all freeways/highways (I-5, I-205, 217) in the Portland area. Not only is this a costly project, but it will *not* solve the issue of congestion. Study after study--in addition to common sense and other cities' experience--has proven this time and again. If you need more evidence, please google "will widening freeways decrease congestion long term" to find a laundry list of reputable articles, scholarly studies, and other states' conclusions that all same the same thing: "[Building Bigger Roads Actually Makes Traffic Worse](#)". Not only that, but freeway expansion will encourage more driving. If Oregon is truly committed to combatting climate change (as many of our representatives and our Governor claim to be) then it's time to put your money where your mouth is and OPPOSE FREEWAY EXPANSION. Instead, that money ought to go into expansion of public transportation--and not just in Portland Metro--as well as cycling and awareness of both. Moreover, charging cars to drive into downtown Portland, perhaps \$3.00 or \$0.50 more than TriMet, would go a long way to cutting down on single occupancy trips.

Again in the vain of curbing climate change: Do not tax bike sales. The State ought to be encouraging as many people as possible to ride a bike rather than drive. Taxing bike sales is counter productive and irresponsible. If you need more revenue, please consider increasing the gas tax (!!) or adjusting the income tax in a way that requires the wealthiest among us (myself possibly included) to pay more. Along the lines of raising funds, the bill ought to introduce a high tax on studded tires. These tires rip up our roads and nothing is being done to curb the behavior. The EPA is meant to slap fines on heavy polluters so the messes can be cleaned up. Tax studded tires so those causing the damage will be paying for the cleanup.

The best way for Oregon to follow the Paris Climate Agreement is by making it easier for Oregon families to switch to low-car and no-car lifestyles. The current bill will not do this.

Please prove to me, the state of Oregon, and the nation that you are not hypocrites. Bring us a bill that truly discourages driving, makes public transit accessible for all (not just those who "need" it), and let's really do something to fight climate change. The world literally depends on it.

Thank You,
Ellen Finneran
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To Senator Dembrow, please be aware that if you vote in favor of this bill in its current form you will unequivocally lose my vote in any and all future elections.