



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2024

Contact: Jennifer Sitton
jennifer@ortrucking.org

OREGON TRUCKING BUSINESSES SUE STATE OF OREGON OVER UNCONSTITUTIONAL OVERPAYMENT OF WEIGHT MILE TAXES

The lawsuit follows many years of trucks paying far more than their fair share of highway taxes

Portland, Ore. – Today, the Oregon Trucking Association (OTA), along with three Oregon trucking companies (Combined Transport, A&M Transport, and Sherman Bros. Trucking) filed a lawsuit against the state of Oregon following many years of trucks paying more than their fair share of highway taxes.

Below is a statement from OTA President & CEO Jana Jarvis on the lawsuit:

“For far too long, Oregon trucking companies, the vast majority of which are small, family-owned businesses, have paid far more than their fair share of transportation taxes. By 2025, the trucking industry is expected to have overpaid by half a billion dollars. Trucking companies in Oregon simply cannot sustain paying the highest transportation taxes of any state in the country any longer.

Oregonians deserve safe roads, and our members are more than willing to pay their fair share – as required by Oregon’s constitution – as long as ODOT keeps up its side of the agreement. But, to date, major road improvements have not been completed, road maintenance has been delayed, and our roads are less safe for passenger vehicles and trucks. Meanwhile, trucking companies – most of which own fewer than 5 trucks – are forced to pass astronomical tax rates on to consumers, who end up paying more for household goods.

Trucks play a critical role in moving goods to communities and families in Oregon, and its long past time that we ensure they are paying their fair share of taxes.”

Oregon’s constitution requires that the tax rate paid by trucks “is fair and proportionate to the costs incurred for the highway system because of each class of vehicle,” yet for years, trucking has paid more than a third of all taxes owed by Oregon motorists, despite trucks representing only 15 percent of vehicle miles traveled in the state.

When trucking taxes continue to increase, small, family-owned trucking businesses are forced to increase their prices, which forces stores and those selling goods to increase their prices, meaning consumers pay more. The continuation of astronomical tax rates for trucking will impact the cost of goods for the nearly 77 percent of communities in Oregon that depend exclusively on trucks to move products.

###

About Oregon Trucking Association

For more than 80 years, the Oregon Trucking Association has advocated on behalf of the state’s trucking industry. Representing the 25,180 trucking companies located in Oregon and the more than 101,030 jobs they provide, the OTA is committed to its mission to advocate, influence, and promote to help its members succeed.