

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
3RD DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



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January 19, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

As you are aware, Oregon residents who work in Washington are some of the loudest critics of the state's new long-term care program since they have correctly asserted that they will not receive any benefit even though they will be forced to pay into it.

That plight rings familiar to Southwest Washington residents who are in a similar situation with the state of Oregon. I'm referring, of course, to Oregon's plan to toll Southwest Washington commuters once they cross into Oregon via the existing I-205 and I-5 bridges – a revenue-raising scheme signed into law as part of Oregon's 2017 transportation funding plan.

Like Oregonians' critiques of the long-term care tax, Southwest Washington commuters are outraged that they will be taxed for using the same decades-old roads that exist today, but none of the tolls collected will be used to replace the I-5 bridge and much of the money will be used on projects elsewhere in Oregon, outside the corridor where the tolls are collected and in areas of the state rarely visited by the Washington residents who will pay the tolls.

The opportunity now exists to force Oregon to address this major inequity. *You should refuse to delay the WA Cares revenue collection for Oregon residents until Oregon's leaders cancel their plans to target Washington residents with this commuter tax.*

Here is an opportunity to stand up for Washingtonians. I urge you to take it.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

CC: Sen. Annette Cleveland Chair, Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee  
Sen. Ron Muzzall Ranking Member, Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee  
Rep. Eileen Cody Chair, House Health Care & Wellness Committee  
Rep. Joe Schmick Ranking Minority Member, House Health Care & Wellness Committee