

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE WASHINGTON

March 31, 2025

Representative Jake Fey, Chair

Representative Adam Bernbaum, Vice Chair

Representative Brandy Donaghy, Vice Chair

Representative Julia Reed, Vice Chair

Representative Andrew Barkis, Ranking Minority Member

Representative Sam Low, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

Representative Gloria Mendoza, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

Representative Suzanne Schmidt, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

House Transportation Committee

John L. O'Brien Building

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Outdoor Alliance Washington writes to express our concern for the potential inequitable distribution of new gas tax revenue. House Bill 2043 increases the per gallon tax rate and generates new revenue, but it is our understanding that the current version would not direct a proportional amount of gas taxes collected from nonhighway driving to manage recreation on federal, state, and local lands in Washington. We write to request changes to the House's proposed Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax and Highway Use Fee revenues to fix tax inequities associated with the House proposal.

Our groups have a strong interest in this issue. [Outdoor Alliance Washington](#) is a network of member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community in Washington and the thousands of Washingtonians who climb, paddle, mountain bike, hike, and enjoy coastal recreation on our state's public lands and waters. Our members include American Whitewater, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Mountaineers, Surfrider Foundation, Washington Climbers Coalition, and Washington Trails Association.

Gas tax funding is vital for recreation on public lands. RCW 46.09.520 directs the State Treasurer to "refund from the motor vehicle fund one percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax revenues collected under chapter 82.38 RCW." This funding accounts for the gas taxes collected on fuel that is used by off-road vehicles and motor vehicles travelling to recreation lands. As written, House Bill 2043 would not



maintain the intended one percent distribution. We ask the legislature to maintain a fair tax system and invest in recreation on public lands by making the following changes to the proposal.

- 1) Ensure that new forms of revenue are deposited in the motor vehicle fund and this new tax revenue maintains the one percent tax refund program contained in RCW 46.09.520.
- 2) If the fuel tax rate increases in 2025, adjust RCW 4.09.520 so that the State Treasurer refunds one percent of the actual fuel tax, thereby ensuring tax fairness.

Thank you for considering this matter. We would be happy to discuss this issue and share more about the importance of the nonhighway and off-road vehicle account, if that would be useful to you.

Best Regards,



Michael DeCramer  
Outdoor Alliance Washington

Cc:

Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater  
Eddie Espinosa, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
Pete Steelquist, Washington Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation  
Betsy Robblee, Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers  
Michael DeCramer, Policy and Planning Manager, Washington Trails Association  
Taylor Luneau, Board Member, Washington Climbers Coalition

