

Submitter: Sally Compton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

As someone who has spent years leading wildlife conservation efforts in Oregon as the executive director of Think Wild, I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3362. This bill provides a much-needed funding mechanism to address two major environmental and public safety challenges—wildlife-vehicle collisions and tire pollution—which have long impacted both Oregon’s ecosystems and its communities.

Every year, thousands of animals—mule deer, elk, and countless other species—are killed or injured on Oregon’s roads. Through my experience managing a wildlife hotline that receives over 3,500 calls annually, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of these collisions. At least 500 of those calls are about deer, many of which involve vehicle-related injuries or fatalities. These incidents don’t just harm wildlife; they endanger drivers, damage vehicles, and strain resources for wildlife rehabilitation and public safety.

In addition, tire pollution poses a growing threat to Oregon’s waterways and aquatic species, including salmon. As more research emerges, it’s clear that microplastics and chemical runoff from tires are contaminating our rivers and streams, disrupting ecosystems that are already under stress from habitat loss and climate change.

HB 3362 takes a proactive and practical approach by implementing a modest 4% excise tax on new tires to fund solutions that reduce wildlife collisions, improve habitat connectivity, and mitigate tire pollution. By directing resources to the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund and the Tire Pollution and Rail Transit Fund, this bill ensures that our state invests in the long-term health of its wildlife and environment while enhancing public safety.

This is a commonsense investment in Oregon’s future, and I urge you to support House Bill 3362. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for considering solutions that will make our roads safer and our ecosystems healthier.

Sincerely,

Sally Compton  
Bend, Oregon