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March 3, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3362. This bill would have a disproportionate negative impact on family farms and rural communities, placing an undue financial burden on those who rely on transportation for their daily livelihoods.

As a sixth generation Oregon farmer in Gilliam and Morrow counties, I can unequivocally share that Oregon's family farms are already facing rising costs and narrow profit margins. A tax on tires, even if limited to highway use, would significantly increase input costs at a time when agricultural producers are struggling to maintain sustainable operations. While the -1 amendment attempts to exempt off-road tires, many farming vehicles and equipment rely on tires that may not be covered by this exemption. Additionally, many farms operate vehicles that have both off-road and on-road uses, making it unclear how the tax would apply.

This added cost would not only affect farmers but all rural Oregonians who must travel long distances for work, school, groceries, medical care, and social activities. For example, I travel 57 miles to a grocery store one way, nearly 120 miles one way for major medical (and Costco) and 40 miles one way to get my boys school. Unlike urban residents, rural communities do not have access to extensive public transportation networks, making vehicle use a necessity, not a luxury. By increasing costs for these families, HB 3362 creates an inequitable financial strain on those who already face limited resources and options.

Oregon's agricultural producers are already burdened with high costs of operation, and this bill adds yet another challenge, making it even more difficult for farms to remain viable. Rather than imposing additional financial hardships on rural communities, the legislature should consider solutions that support agriculture and rural residents.

I urge you to oppose HB 3362 and protect Oregon's family farms and rural communities from unnecessary financial strain. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Hansell-Heideman, Owner/Operator Blown Away Ranch