

**OREGON CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY** PO Box 2378 Corvallis, OR 97339

## FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**TO:** Joint Committee on Transportation

## SUBJECT: HB 3362 (Tire Pollution Tax) - SUPPORT

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 3362 and the opportunity to provide comments.

ORTWS would like to express our strong support for HB 3362.

ORTWS represents over 700 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of HB 3362 because it closely aligns with implementing our mission and targets critical topics like mitigating tire pollution in relation to sensitive species, water quality, wildlife conservation, and public safety. Many of our members specialize in evaluating wildlife population dynamics, animal movement, corridors and connectivity, human-wildlife conflict, water quality and ecosystem health, and other disciplines that all coalesce into reducing wildlife-vehicle conflicts and improving habitat connectivity and water quality. As such, the expertise represented by ORTWS and its members support HB 3362 towards its intended purpose focused on supporting wildlife passage infrastructure development.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

**ORTWS Board of Directors**