



Co Chairs Sen Gorsek, Rep McLain, and Members of the of the Joint Committee on Transportation

My name is Joe Liebezeit. I'm the Statewide Conservation Director for the Bird Alliance of Oregon. Our mission is to "Inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends." At 122 years old, we are the longest serving conservation organization in Oregon. On behalf of our over 12,000 members, we are writing today to urge you to please support passage of HB 3362 - Tire Pollution Tax Bill.

Every year there are over 7,000 wildlife vehicle collisions in Oregon. These collisions result in injuries to hundreds of people every year and, in some cases, fatalities. Most of these incidents are deer-vehicle collisions which results in over \$100 million per year in damages. These problems will only intensify as the population of Oregon increases.

Passing HB 3362 would secure the critical funding needed to support the investment in roadway structures like overpasses and underpasses that are necessary to improve habitat connectivity and increase roadway safety for wildlife and people. This funding would position Oregon to significantly improve the existing wildlife-vehicle collision reduction program; an important step to take at a time of uncertainty regarding the reliability of federal support. This bill would also help protect fish by mitigating toxic runoff from tires and the bill would invest in rail infrastructure that would help reduce tire wear and road pollution.

Please support HB 3362!

Joe Liebezeit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Liebezeit".

Statewide Conservation Director
Bird Alliance of Oregon