Co Chairs, Co Vice Chairs, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Customer care is our highest priority at Les Schwab, and we generally oppose any policies that create an undue hardship on our customers or negatively impact their ability to purchase the best tires to safely meet their driving needs. Therefore, we oppose HB 3362.

Les Schwab customers are already paying significantly more for tires that just a few years ago. Tire prices have increased for consumers due to increased raw material costs, like rubber and steel, supply chain disruptions, global economic volatility, and rising research and development expenses for better tire technology. According to a Consumer Reports survey, <u>consumers paid</u> 33% more for tires in 2023, over what they paid in 2020.

In addition to the financial burden that HB 3362 would create for our customers, we believe that any tire fee or tire tax should be directed specifically to fund roads and the transportation budget. While funding that benefits rail and wildlife passage infrastructure are important programs, our industry specifically should not be asked to pass the cost of funding those programs on to our customers.

For these reasons we respectively ask you to oppose HB 3362.

Sincerely,

Neil Cole General Counsel Les Schwab Tires