

Submitter: Christine Perala Gardiner
On Behalf Of: Water League
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

I support this bill as a sensible way to enhance Oregon's stated values, protecting our native fish, wildlife and rivers, from a known threat created and funded by the transportation system.

Revenue from the tire tax would fund filtration systems and stream restoration projects to intercept and reduce this pollution, protecting vital salmon habitats. Wildlife frequently must cross roads, leading to thousands of vehicle-animal collisions each year, posing dangers to both animals and drivers. Wildlife crossings, such as bridges and underpasses, have been proven significantly to reduce roadkill incidents and enhance ecological connectivity. The tax would create a dedicated funding source to build and maintain wildlife crossings, helping to prevent crashes while preserving biodiversity. Expanding rail infrastructure for freight and passenger travel provides a long-term solution to reduce reliance on cars and trucks., current levels of which cannot be sustained for many reasons, of which you are aware. Trains are more efficient than road transport, producing less pollution and decreasing overall tire wear. Fewer cars and trucks on the road mean less tire-derived microplastic pollution, fewer road and vehicle repairs, and reduced runoff contamination. The tax revenue would help fund rail improvements, providing Oregonians with better, more sustainable transportation alternatives.

Please support HB 3362. cpg