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**March 3, 2025**

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

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3362**

Chair Gorsek, Chair McLain, Vice Chair Starr, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

Willamette Riverkeeper expresses strong support for **HB 3362**, which seeks to reduce tire pollution, improve water quality, protect fish populations, fund strategic wildlife crossing projects, and expand public transit options.

HB 3362 proposes a 4% tax on vehicle tire sales, generating an estimated \$20 million annually to address critical transportation and environmental challenges. This would add approximately \$6 per tire—or \$24 for a full set of four tires—a modest increase that provides a sustainable funding source for wildlife and infrastructure improvements.

Tire pollution contributes significantly to microplastic contamination and chemical pollution in waterways, posing serious risks to aquatic life, particularly Coho salmon. Tires contain 6PPD, a chemical added to prevent breakdown from exposure to ozone. However, when 6PPD reacts with ozone, it forms 6PPD-quinone, a highly toxic compound that kills Coho salmon within hours of exposure. As tires wear down on roads, this chemical is released into the environment and washes into streams and rivers during rainfall. HB 3362 provides funding to **study and mitigate this pollution**, ensuring better protection for Oregon's waterways and fish populations.

HB 3362 would also fund wildlife crossing infrastructure, allowing the state to invest in critical overpasses and underpasses that enhance habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. These projects protect both drivers and Oregon's diverse wildlife by providing safe passage across highways and reducing roadway fatalities.

In addition to addressing tire pollution and wildlife safety, HB 3362 would invest in rail system improvements and public transit expansion, reducing dependency on cars and strengthening Oregon's climate resilience.

By improving accessibility and efficiency in public transportation, this bill helps decrease greenhouse gas emissions and supports long-term sustainability.

HB 3362 represents a balanced approach to environmental and infrastructure challenges, offering **measurable benefits for wildlife, water quality, and public safety without placing undue financial burden on consumers**. A small tire tax is a **reasonable, sustainable funding mechanism** that will generate long-term positive impacts for Oregon's environment and transportation systems.

Willamette Riverkeeper urges strong support for HB 3362. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

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