

March 4, 2025

HB 3362

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

Thank you for accepting my written testimony. My name is Jake Seavert, and I serve as a Union County Commissioner. I am writing on behalf of my constituents in rural eastern Oregon to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3362, which proposes a 4% tax on retail tire purchases.

This tax is both inequitable and unjust. In rural Oregon, residents must drive significantly longer distances for work, school, groceries, and essential medical care—often traveling 150 to 200 miles for specialized treatment. Additionally, this tax would impose a financial burden on our county's fleet of vehicles and equipment, which are critical for road maintenance, law enforcement and public health services. With already limited budgets, this added expense would strain our ability to provide essential services.

Furthermore, the allocation of funds from this tax is inherently unfair. Two-thirds of the revenue would benefit only three of Oregon's 36 counties by supporting a metropolitan rail transit system—something rural Oregonians will never have access to. Meanwhile, funding for vehicle-wildlife collision mitigation would be inadequate to meaningfully improve highway infrastructure and reduce accidents.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3362 and instead pursue a funding strategy that ensures metro rail programs are supported by the counties that will directly benefit from them.

Sincerely,
Jake Seavert
Union County Commissioner
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