

Submitter: Rich Peppers
On Behalf Of: MCAT Transportation Committee
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

On behalf of the Mobilizing Climate Action Together (MCAT) Transportation Committee, I urge your support for HB 3362, a common-sense excise tax on the sale of tires dedicated to helping to solve some of the environmental and climate problems resulting from our Transportation System. A tire excise tax is not the only way to help fund a piece of the state's transportation system and resolve associated problems, but it is worth consideration:

HB 3362 dedicates a portion of the revenues it generates to environmental/fish protection projects to prevent or reverse the impact of tire particulates on salmon and other species, and on water quality generally. These tire particulates have been shown to be highly toxic for salmon; and the appearance of the particulates in Oregon's rivers and creeks is a growing problem.

HB 3362 dedicates another portion of its revenues to wildlife crossings around the state: collisions between wildlife and vehicles is a serious safety problem that can however be averted. Investing in strategically located wildlife crossings protects wildlife AND humans and allows wildlife to follow their long-established trails.

And, finally, HB 3362 dedicates a last portion of revenue raised to developing public rail transit operations in Oregon. This is both an equity issue (25-plus% and growing of the driving age populations do not own or drive a car and yet the transportation system should serve them as well), and a climate issue if Oregon is going to meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals in the state.

For all these reasons and more, I urge you to support HB 3362. Thank you for your consideration.