

## Testimony in Favor of HB 3362

Before the Joint Committee on Transportation

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Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 3362. Thank you, Senator Gorsek for sponsoring this bill.

*In early childhood development there comes a time when we begin to recognize the world around us - other people, other animals, a world of mystery, an environment that sustains us. About the age of two, we begin to learn compassion. We begin to value things outside of us – something beyond our immediate, self-centered need for warmth and comfort.*

*None of us get through this period without blemish. Each of us carry forward pieces of the two-year-old world in which we struggled.*

*The tobacco industry never wanted to acknowledge the impacts of smoking. Doing so hurt their bottom line. Smokers objected to the tax increasing the cost of the deadly carcinogens.*

*The two-year-old in us does not want to pay taxes. But taxes are in part a toolkit to change behavior and mitigate the damage we impose on our environment. Taxes can help pay for services and infrastructure that help create a stronger, healthier community.*

In December 2020 the University of Washington issued a study concluding that toxic chemicals from rubber tires are responsible for coho salmon deaths in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> More than half the adult salmon who return to Puget Sound's urban streams die before they have a chance to spawn.

When it rains, stormwater flushes tire debris from roads and parking lots into the water table. One of the chemicals leached from these tires is a highly toxic preservative<sup>2</sup> designed to slow down the deterioration of tires.

This UW study was limited to Coho salmon. But chemicals polluting our water have more impact than the death of salmon. This toxin ends up in the salmon we eat, in other organisms, in the water and soil. We do not know how far it spreads, or the total cost.

The two-year-old in us does not want to pay taxes on tires.

The adult in us understands the need for an environment to sustain a healthy community and economy.

I hope you will read all of my written testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washington.edu/news/2020/12/03/tire-related-chemical-largely-responsible-for-adult-coho-salmon-deaths-in-urban-streams/>

<sup>2</sup> 6PPD, an organic chemical, N<sup>1</sup>-(4-Methylpentan-2-yl)-N<sup>4</sup>-phenylbenzene-1,4-diamine