

Submitter: Kevin Kincaid  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3362. Giving the ongoing threat of climate change, it is vital that Oregon begin developing a strong rail network. Additionally, we must be prepared to combat the last effects of car centric infrastructure and the pollution it causes. The excise tax on tires will assist the state with this transition.

Car centric infrastructure has a number of lasting and ongoing issues. Cars are the least environmentally friendly method of transportation, and using them as a mass transit system releases tons of CO2 emissions every year. This contributes to climate change, which is exacerbating wildfires in our state. The pollution caused by car tires, including those on electric vehicles, damages the environment and impacts our wildlife. The exercise tax is well designed because it works to help mitigate the damages caused by cars to our natural environment. Additionally, the rail transit fund will help develop a cleaner and safer transportation system.

Overall, Oregon needs to improve it's transportation system. Even electric vehicles contribute to wear and tear on our road infrastructure, and their tires contribute to particle pollution. Oregon needs to turn away from car based systems, and not invest in massive highway expansions that only contribute to maintenance costs and fail to reduce traffic. A strong rail system with frequent service will reduce traffic, remove the necessity of car travel, and save taxpayers money.

Now is the time for Oregon to begin investing in a cleaner and more efficient method of transportation. I urge you to pass HB 3362 to ensure that we begin building towards a better tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.