



March 4, 2025
Joint Committee on Transportation

RE: HB 3362 Support

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and Mclain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

On behalf of Oregon's watershed councils, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils ("NOWC") supports HB 3362, relating to a tax on the sales of tires to prevent and mitigate for tire pollution and for the addition of wildlife crossings.

Our watershed councils are led by natural resource experts and scientists. Councils restore and enhance local waters and lands for native species and for people, and they are often the backbone of the local economy in our more rural communities through the employment of contractors and other professionals to complete complex work.

Regarding tire pollution: 6-PPD-q is a chemical that is shed by tires on our roads and highways, and which is lethal to coho salmon and toxic to other threatened salmonids. Our Watershed Councils recognize the need to act swiftly to mitigate for this chemical entering our state's streams and rivers as stormwater runoff from our transportation infrastructure. There are established stormwater runoff treatment technologies that effectively reduces 6-PPD-q levels; however, we must fund a program to update our aging transportation stormwater conveyance systems in order to implement these technologies, and prevent and mitigate for water pollution, and in particular, 6-PPD-q levels.

Regarding wildlife crossings: we are lucky in Oregon to have healthy wildlife habitat throughout the state. However, there are numerous scenarios where wildlife must cross busy roads and highways to access migration routes, food, and spawning grounds. The addition of wildlife crossing projects through the development of the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund will reduce wildlife injury and death from vehicles.

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils urges you to vote yes to HB 3362.

Thank you,

Terri Preeg Riggsby
Executive Director, NOWC