

Submitter: Rex Watkins
On Behalf Of: hard-working Oregonians
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

My apologies for this arriving to you after the hearing. Since I am one of those hard-working Oregonians (the day usually begins with paperwork at 5:15 am before the crew arrives, then work with the crew all day, then more paperwork in the evening) who pays what seems like a lot of taxes (taxed on this, that, and the other thing) and a lot of insurance I think it is reasonable that I lend my voice to the opposition of HB 3362. It MIGHT be possible in Oregon to tax our way to the Garden of Eden, but I really don't think that is the best way there. We can always find things that are "harmful" to this or that, the climate and Mother Earth seem to be the big things right now, and tax the heck out of them so they go away. The trouble lies in what happens after that. I often refer to Salem (our state capital) as the "land of unintended consequences" as that seems to be how it goes. Problem identified, solution suggested, then solution enacted (if it fits the correct political purposes), then new problems arise from the previous solution, and so it goes, ad infinitum. Taxing tires won't make the earth any cleaner, and it certainly won't stop climate change. What is will change is how often the middle- and lower-class workers can replace their tires, more than likely running on tires that are worn out, causing accidents, and death. Thanks for considering my perspective.