

Submitter: Pete Simpson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

Dear Senator Gorsek, Representative McLain, and all the members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Pete Simpson, I am a resident of Beaverton, and I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 3362, which is essential for funding cleaner and more sustainable transportation options for Oregonians, particularly passenger rail.

Increased funding is necessary to address the rising costs of the Amtrak Cascades service, which has demonstrated its popularity by breaking ridership records in 2023 and 2024. This demand reflects the public's enthusiasm for safe, welcoming, and efficient train travel. I am an avid user of our existing passenger rail, which I use to visit friends and family all along the coast. There is not a more convenient, safe, and pleasant way for me to travel.

Additionally, pollution from tire particles containing toxic substances poses a significant environmental threat, particularly to salmon populations. Those purchasing tires would have an opportunity to contribute to solutions that mitigate these harmful effects.

Providing viable alternatives to car travel could save individuals more than \$10,000 per year in fuel, maintenance, depreciation, and insurance costs, according to AAA. For lower-income families, these savings are especially critical. Reducing the number of cars on I-5 would also lower the costs of roadway construction and maintenance for taxpayers.

It is important to recognize that a tax on tires is not about forcing people out of their cars but rather about creating choices and opportunities. This measure helps account for the environmental impact of transportation while generating revenue for alternative transit solutions. Operating passenger trains on the same tracks as freight trains is a cost-effective approach that benefits both passenger and freight transportation.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a YES vote on House Bill 3362.

Sincerely,
Pete Simpson