

Submitter: Craig Martell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

As a resident of rural eastern Oregon, I urge you to conscientiously think about the transportation needs of this part of the state and vote to support HB3362. There is an urgent need to re-establish passenger rail along the former Pioneer route of Amtrak. Communities such as Baker City, lacking bus lines, would use this service. It also makes good sense to construct wildlife crossings in areas where vehicle-wildlife collisions are common; this is vital to public safety, not a luxury. Funding is needed, and using a tax on new tires is a very fair way of tying the funding to highway transportation. This is better than funding it out of the general fund. Those like me who support passenger rail would be inclined to spend more on tires, getting the more expensive brands, to further our cause. Do not listen to the selfish people who oppose this bill because it does not personally benefit them. Plenty of my tax dollars have gone to fund projects in other parts of the state. Those of you on this committee have an obligation to address real transportation needs, not cave in to pressure from those who blindly oppose all taxes.