



February 28, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3362, Relating to a tax on sales of tires; prescribing an effective date

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Starr and Boshart-Davis, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we write in strong support of House Bill 3362, which will help protect wildlife, safeguard motorists, and fund rail improvements,

Funding programs that support wildlife crossing infrastructure is essential. Between the months of October and December, it's not uncommon to see deer leap onto a busy road, especially around nightfall. New data shows U.S. drivers on the average have a 1 in 128 chance of a collision with an animal, according to the State Farm® annual analysis. The company estimates there were over 1.8 million animal collision insurance claims in the U.S. between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.¹ Thus far, multiple states, including California, Florida, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming have started to protect wildlife corridors and promote wildlife crossings.

With one in five species in the U.S. at risk of extinction, the disruption of wildlife habitats is among the nation's greatest conservation challenges. Connecting habitats that enable wildlife movement and building highway crossing structures for wildlife, ensure that species can migrate to resources needed for survival. This allows them to better adapt to changing climates and landscapes, which is critical to their survival.

Motorists kill more than one million large animals a year on U.S. roads—roughly one every 26 seconds. These accidents also kill more than 200 people and injure another 26,000 each year. By passing HB 3362, the critical funding will support the investment in roadway structures such as overpasses and underpasses, which are necessary for habitat connectivity and roadway safety for wildlife and people.

HB 3362 will also address transportation impacts on water quality through tire pollution damage. Pollutants, such as 6PPD, are released from our tires as we drive. This harms streams, salmon and other aquatic animals. This is a salient issue for regions that depend on fish and fisheries. In March 2024, Washington enacted **SB 5931**,² addressing the chemical 6PPD³ in motorized vehicle tires.⁴ This made Washington the first state to pass legislation to regulate 6PPD. The bill, sponsored by Senator Jesse

¹<https://www.statefarm.com/simple-insights/auto-and-vehicles/how-likely-are-you-to-have-an-animal-collision>

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/bills/summary?BillNumber=5931&Year=2023&Initiative=false>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-toxic-chemicals/addressing-priority-toxic-chemicals/6ppd>

⁴ <https://www.nceleenviro.org/articles/washington-passes-legislation-to-phase-out-6ppd/>



Salomon, aims to reduce sources and uses of 6PPD in Washington to protect aquatic life, particularly salmon.

This bill will also support and expand Oregon's rail-passenger service by providing a stable funding source. Lack of funding has stifled the expansion and threatened the existence of Oregon's rail-passenger program. Access to affordable rail transit options is needed for a just transition towards meeting our climate goals.

The estimated economic impact on individuals through passing HB 3362 is about \$6 per new tire. This is modeled after a past Oregon tire tax, and is a wise investment, given all that we will get in return.. Therefore, we urge you to support HB 3362.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.