

Submitter: Joseph Van Kleeck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

To Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Joseph Van Kleeck, I am a native Portlander here to voice my support for HB3362, which would impose an excise tax on the retail sales of automobile tires to create dedicated rail and transit funding.

If we are to propel ODOT's climate action plan forward, measures like these -- which help fund public transit and railways and deter automobile driving -- make the most sense. Less cars on the road also reduce congestion, and keep our roads safer by reducing the need for maintenance and reducing traffic collisions with other vehicles or pedestrians. I have seen firsthand the demand for increased transit and ridership almost across the board from those who provided testimony at the roadshow for the JCT in Hillsboro last year. Those who are incapable of driving can enjoy a better quality of life through increased transit, and those who regularly drive may reconsider with measures like these in place.

For too long, the automobile industry has dominated the cultural zeitgeist by peddling delusions of the American dream, and everyone is reeling from its effects as a result. Can we really call it "freedom" when our paychecks are consumed by auto loans, gasoline, insurance, and repair costs; when so many of our tax dollars are devoured by endless highway maintenance and expansions; when we are stuck in long and frustrating commutes to and from work; when the air around us grows thick and hazy from the emissions; when our historic railways and streetcars are ripped apart to continue fueling this gasoline-huffing fever dream?

Now is THE time to make a difference, and passing bills like this will put Oregon on the right path towards a greener and brighter future. Please do the right thing; vote YES on HB3362.

Thank you all for your time and efforts.