



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
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350pdx.org

Dear Chair and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of 350PDX, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 3362, which would establish a four percent excise tax on retail tire sales to fund critical environmental and transportation priorities. As a grassroots climate action organization committed to addressing the climate crisis and environmental justice in Oregon, we believe this legislation represents a thoughtful approach to addressing several interconnected challenges in our transportation system.

We support HB 3362 for the following key reasons:

1. Addressing Toxic Tire Pollution in Our Waterways

The discovery of 6PPD-quinone and other tire-derived pollutants has revealed a significant threat to our waterways and salmon populations. Under HB 3362, one-third of the funds directed to the Tire Pollution and Rail Transit Fund would support a dedicated tire pollution prevention and mitigation program administered by ODOT in consultation with DEQ and ODFW. This program would develop solutions to prevent these toxic chemicals from entering our water systems, protecting both aquatic ecosystems and human health. The bill recognizes that infrastructure changes are needed to mitigate existing pollution while working toward long-term solutions for this emerging environmental challenge.

2. Wildlife Protection and Road Safety

Wildlife-vehicle collisions represent both an ecological and public safety concern. By allocating 25% of funds to the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund, HB 3362 would support strategic investments in wildlife crossings and other infrastructure that protect Oregon's biodiversity while making our roads safer for all users. These projects are especially important as climate change alters wildlife migration patterns.

3. Expanding Low-Carbon Transportation Options

Perhaps most importantly from a climate perspective, this bill would direct 75% of funds to the Tire Pollution and Rail Transit Fund, with two-thirds of that amount specifically allocated to support public transportation by rail and other forms of public transit. Expanding these alternatives to car travel is essential for meeting Oregon's climate goals and reducing our transportation emissions, which remain the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Investing in these systems also advances transportation equity by providing more affordable mobility options for all Oregonians.

4. Smart Funding Mechanism



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The four percent excise tax on new tires (including newly refurbished tires) represents a reasonable "user pays" approach that connects the source of environmental impacts with funding for solutions. The bill defines taxable tires as those "designed for use on a motor vehicle for travel on public highways," which effectively focuses the tax on consumer vehicle tires while minimizing impacts on commercial and agricultural sectors. This structure is expected to generate approximately \$20 million annually for crucial environmental and transportation priorities while maintaining a clear nexus between the funding source and the problems being addressed.

As Oregon develops its transportation future, we must ensure that environmental protection, climate action, and safety are integrated into our planning and funding decisions. HB 3362 exemplifies the type of forward-thinking policy that acknowledges the environmental impacts of our transportation system while investing in solutions. The bill would take effect 91 days after the 2025 legislative session adjourns sine die, with the tax provisions applying to tire sales occurring on or after January 1, 2026, providing adequate time for implementation.