

Submitter: Joe Dabulskis
On Behalf Of: Sherman County court
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

This bill feels as if it's an attempt to find funding for something that our lackluster ODOT financial situation obviously doesn't have funds for, so a new tax, or expense on the citizens of Oregon, is made up for some pet projects of a state senator and representative. Is this how we are going to fix the ODOT funding crisis? Just make up a new tax each time somebody thinks something is worthwhile, but we don't have the funds for the cause? Why are we avoiding the work to dismantle the current ODOT funding package and build a funding package that is fair (puts funding on the shoulders of all users of our transportation system) and is sustainable for the future? If we consider a 4% tax on the sale of tires, and get accustomed to that stream of money, how long will it take to remove the exemptions on heavy truck and agricultural vehicle tires that are in the current version of the bill? These are far more expensive than passenger car tires and the tax revenue on the sale of just one of these tires may be equal to the tax revenue many full sets of passenger car tires may raise. Couple this with the projected future cuts to the ODOT maintenance budget and the deteriorating condition of our pavement this will cause, not only will the citizens be paying at least 4% more for their tires, but they may possibly be buying tires more frequently, compliments of the rougher road services and the damage this will cause to their tires. Please, set aside the ideas of continuing to chip away at the paychecks of your fellow Oregonians, and step up to the work needed to provide ODOT with the sustainable funding it needs, while also making sure this state agency is responsibly using the funds that the citizens and users of our transportation system deserve.