

Submitter: Donovan Seymour
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

My name is Donovan and I live in Portland, Oregon. I strongly support House Bill 3362.

This bill is critical to fund cleaner and more sustainable transportation options for Oregonians, such as passenger rail

Increased funds are needed due to the increasing cost of the Amtrak Cascades service

Amtrak Cascades is popular and has broken ridership records in 2023 and 2024. The public likes riding trains.

Fewer cars on I-5 will save taxpayers roadway construction and maintenance costs.

A tax on tires is about providing choices and opportunities, not forcing people out of their cars.

We are not punishing tire purchases - this is about pricing in unrecognized externalities of a mode of transportation (previously unrecognized cost surrounding damage to aquatic ecosystems as well as environmental harm from tire and car production in this case) and using the revenue raised to support remediation and alternative transit options.

Operating passenger trains on the same tracks as freight trains is an economical use of resources. Improvements benefit both freight movement and passenger travel.

On a personal note, I hope to some day use rail services funded by this bill to travel the state and enjoy the many small towns and natural wonders that our state has to offer. I often find myself opting out of traveling in state for vacations due to the increased stress and exhaustion from having to drive. With train services to many more destinations, I can easily see myself visiting the coast or eastern Oregon instead of flying out of state.

I strongly urge your YES vote for House Bill 3362.

Thank you,

Donovan Seymour