



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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March 6, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3362 Proposing a 4% excise tax on the retail sale of new tires in Oregon -
Opposition

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

On behalf of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, we would like to express our opposition to Oregon House Bill 3362, which proposes a 4% excise tax on the retail sale of new tires in Oregon. We are deeply concerned that its implementation will disproportionately burden our rural communities, including the vital industries that drive Oregon's economy.

Yamhill County, along with many other rural communities, relies on vehicles for agricultural work, transportation of goods, and daily operations of small businesses. These industries already operate on narrow profit margins; a tire tax will add another financial strain. It will increase costs for essential transportation, food production, and infrastructure projects, all of which directly impact our residents. These additional costs would ultimately lead to higher prices for consumers, exacerbating financial challenges for rural families and businesses.

We are also concerned about the allocation of the revenue generated by this tax. While a portion of the funds is proposed to go towards reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, we note that Oregon already has the "Watch for Wildlife" license plate program, which raises funds directly for wildlife passage and habitat connectivity projects. Rather than creating a new tax burden, we urge you to fully support and expand these existing programs to meet the goal of reducing wildlife-vehicle accidents without adding additional financial hardship on rural Oregonians.

Additionally, the proposed allocation of the revenue primarily towards public transportation by rail is problematic for rural areas. We believe that revenue from transportation-related taxes should be equitably distributed to ensure that rural infrastructure projects are adequately funded and that the needs of rural communities are not overlooked.

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges you to oppose HB 3362 which is inequitable and unduly burdens families from rural communities. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and hope that the unique needs of rural Oregonians and the industries that drive our state's economy will be carefully weighed as you move forward with the legislative process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kit Johnston
Chair



Mary Starrett
Vice Chair



David "Bubba" King
Commissioner

cc: Sen.ChrisGorsek@oregonlegislature.gov
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