

Submitter: Drew Millegan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

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

My name is Drew Millegan and I live in McMinnville, Oregon. I support House Bill 3362.

Amtrak Cascades is popular and has broken ridership records in 2023 and 2024. It provides a critical transportation backbone not just for our state but the entire Pacific Northwest. Trains are safe, efficient, and when done right and integrated into a robust network can move more people faster than even our best interstate highways, while also lessening delays on our highway systems. Fewer cars on I-5 will save taxpayers roadway construction and maintenance costs, though a tax on tires is more about providing choices and opportunities, not forcing people out of their cars.

If travel alternatives allow someone to get by without a car, they could save over \$10,000 per year on average in avoided fuel, maintenance, depreciation, and insurance costs according to AAA: <https://info.oregon.aaa.com/aaa-annual-cost-of-new-car-ownership-exceeds-10k/>. The lower your family income, the more important this becomes. Not only that, but operating passenger trains on the same tracks as freight trains is an economical use of resources. Improvements benefit both freight movement and passenger travel.

This bill is also critical to fund cleaner and more sustainable transportation options for Oregonians, such as passenger rail. Not only does this bill help fund transit, but pollution caused by tire particles contains toxics that harm salmon, and those buying tires would have an opportunity to help fund solutions with this Bill. This bill is not about punishing tire purchases, but 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.

I strongly urge your YES vote for House Bill 3362.

Thank you,

Drew Millegan