

Hi my name is Jeff Bernards I am the person who pursued the Initiative to Ban Studded tires in Oregon. You probably asking why, well there are several reasons. I find hydroplaning in the ruts created by studded tires to be exceptionally dangerous & the noise that it creates also quite irritating. At a Portland City council meeting I asked Matt Garret; "When are we going to get rid of Studded tires." His response to me was "Go talk to Les Schwab" That started the whole initiative campaign. That's what the Occupy movement was about for me, Special Interest influencing government to influencing policy so they can profit from their broken business model & leave the taxpayers to pick up the tab. Basically Les Schwab is guilty of promoting Corporate Welfare. They insist on selling a product, like tobacco companies did, but are unwilling to accept the responsibility & consequences associated with their use. I'm here to defend the public's right to safe roads and see the enforcement of Oregon's laws that require road users to pay for the damage they cost to our roads. It's Oregon's most valuable asset, yet it's not being treated like that.

I've done 2 years of research on this topic, I know it very well.. Some people feel studded tires are required to drive in the winter, if that was the case 100% of people would use them. But that's not the case. Studded Tire use estimates run from 16%-20% statewide. In Portland its 10% and East of the mountains its 1/3 of drivers use studded tires. It's a free choice to buy and use studded tires and paying for the damage they cause should be included in the cost.. New tire technology has rendered the studded tire nearly obsolete. It's time that drivers either pay up or switch to stud-less tires that keep our roads safe for everyone, year round.

James Lundy the current Dean of Engineering at OSU did a study in 1996 that concluded studded tires should be banned. If not banned then a fee of \$125 a year was appropriate. Oil was \$20 a barrel then it's now \$100. Since asphalt is made of oil a \$200-\$300 per year fee is not unreasonable. We can no longer subsidize others "free" choices. Your being asked to charge people who willingly chose to buy studded tires for \$500 yet want me to pay for their use, that's unfair. Asking for a \$10 fee is like charging 2 cents on a pack of cigarettes, doesn't come close to covering the cost. That's why Bills 2278 & 2397 are too vague and don't solve our road maintenance problems.

Your own Legislative fact sheets states that studded tires cut asphalt road life in half & concrete roads by 60% in the Portland area, yet only 10% of drivers use them. I ski and in 25 years I maybe put chains on 4 times, ODOT keeps the roads well ploughed.

Costco stopped selling studded tires 8 years ago because they didn't want to be associated with the compromising of our infrastructure. That's Great Corporate responsibility, something Les Schwab could take a page from.

Sen. Ted Ferrioli from John Day told me he uses stud-less snow tires and has never had the problems that Cliff Bentz claims he has. John Day and Ontario Oregon are only 131 miles apart, not enough to justify studded tires, sorry Cliff. The Oregonian reported that Bentz acknowledges that new technology eventually may replace the need for studs. Well the only way for that to happen is to charge a realistic fee to encourage a quicker

transition. I worry about the hardship people may feel about having to replace their studded tires but I worry more on how were going to pay for all the backlogged road repair we have now without adding more. Studded tires can have the studs removed and you can still use the tire, you don't have to throw them away.

Les Schwab and NWTDA have blocked all attempts to fee or ban studded tires. Here's a comment from their newsletter:

Oregon also has tried in recent years to ban studded tires from the roads with similar bills proposing bans and fees on studded tire sales, but fortunately for the NWTDA, the Oregon legislature is not in session this year, according to Mr. Nordness. The association's advantage in the last session, he said, is the Oregon House transportation chair is also a tire dealer, and he chose not to hold hearings on studded tire bills.

Dick Nordness Executive Director NWTDA

I get the feeling that they think they own the legislators, we the people elected you we want you to do what's in the best interest for the majority of Oregonians. Which I feel is the ultimate ban of studded tires. But if a high enough fee can be established to encourage the use of stud-less tires then I would support Bill 2277.