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Committee Assistant  
House Transportation and Economic Development Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 6, 2013

Re: HB 2277, Relating to studded tires.

Greetings Chair Read and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill 2277, Relating to studded tires, requiring an annual permit with permit cost based on the annual damage to the roads estimated by the Oregon Department of Transportation shared among those driving with studded snow tires.

This bill is well-intended. No one denies that studded snow tires, rather metal or rubber, contribute to wear and tear on Oregon's paved roads. However, this bill has several flaws:

1. HB 2277 creates a new layer of bureaucracy with the annual permits. I am especially concerned about the number of drivers who live in rural remote areas of our State and the burden such a process would create.
2. HB 2277 fails to address the impact of the cost of permits on the economically disadvantaged, such as seniors and veterans in the poverty range.
3. HB 2277 would appear to have increasing permit costs as the number of drivers with studded tires decreases – spreading the cost of the permits over fewer drivers and ultimately making it too expensive to purchase the permit.
4. HB 2277 does not have a provision to address those whose lives depend on the use of studded snow tires. While I do not need studded tires to safely drive, many, especially seniors, have only learned to drive using studded snow tires. I am deeply concerned that drivers in mountainous regions will risk death or injury if the permits are too costly and they cannot afford to use studded snow tires.

I urge the Committee to not give HB 2277 a do pass.

Respectfully submitted,



John Huddle

