

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

March 6, 2013

Re: HB 2397, Relating to studded tires.

Greetings Chair Read and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill 2397, Relating to studded tires, requiring an undetermined fee collected by the Oregon Department of Transportation upon the sale of each studded snow tire.

This bill has many features that I like. However, I believe it needs amending:

1. HB 2397 needs to set the amount of the fee to be collected. I am uneasy leaving that amount up to the Department of Transportation. I recommend a set fee for steel studs with provision for a reduced fee for those individuals who can show evidence they are in the poverty level.
2. I like the provision in HB 2278 compensating the tire dealer for collecting the fee. I recommend an amendment providing a reasonable amount for administrative overhead.
3. HB 2397 does not discriminate between the types of studs. I recommend amending the bill to collect a lesser fee for retractable studs or rubber studs. While all studs do some damage, these two types do less.
4. I also believe that, in fairness to rural Oregon, the Committee needs to hold hearings outside of Salem on the impact of fees on the sale of studded snow tires. Many people east of the Cascades need studded snow tires to safely drive on icy mountainous roads. Often, icy sections are no longer sanded, making driving treacherous. I live in an area with poverty levels above 20 percent with a high number of seniors. The Committee needs to solicit testimony from those most affected by this bill.

I urge the Committee to continue to work on HB 2397.

Respectfully submitted,



John Huddle

