

3.3.25

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 4% tax on tires. While I understand the need for revenue to support critical infrastructure, this tax would have disproportionate negative impacts on Oregonians. I urge you to reconsider this proposal for the following reasons:

1. **Increased Financial Burden on Working Families** – A tire tax disproportionately affects low- and middle-income families who rely on their vehicles for work, school, and daily life. In rural areas like ours, where public transportation is limited, this added cost would place an undue burden on hardworking Oregonians who have no alternative to driving.
2. **Negative Impact on Schools and Public Services** – School districts, emergency services, and local governments operate fleets of buses, maintenance vehicles, and emergency response units. A tire tax would increase operational costs, diverting funds away from classrooms, public safety, and essential services.
3. **Harm to Small Businesses and Agriculture** – Many small businesses and farmers depend on trucks, tractors, and equipment that require frequent tire replacements. This tax would raise costs for businesses that are already struggling with inflation, supply chain issues, and labor shortages, potentially leading to higher consumer prices.
4. **Disproportionate Effect on Rural Oregonians** – Unlike urban residents who may have access to public transit, rural Oregonians have no choice but to drive long distances for work, medical care, and education. This tax unfairly penalizes those who depend on their vehicles the most.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose the 4% tire tax and consider alternative funding mechanisms that do not place an undue burden on working families, schools, and small businesses. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Walt Davenport
Shady Cove, Oregon