

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3362 – The Oregon Tire Tax

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition** to **HB 3362**, which imposes yet another layer of taxation on Oregonians simply trying to drive to work, take their children to school, and conduct everyday business. This bill proposes a **4% excise tax on tires**, compounding the already overwhelming financial burden placed on Oregon's working families.

How Many Times Will Oregonians Be Taxed Just to Drive?

Let's be clear: **Oregonians are already taxed at every turn when it comes to transportation.** Consider the **layers of taxation we already endure**:

1. **Income Tax** – We pay taxes on our hard-earned wages.
2. **Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) on Vehicles** – A hidden sales tax increases the cost of cars.
3. **Gas Tax** – We pay at the pump every time we fill up.
4. **Vehicle Registration Fees** – We are taxed just for the right to own and operate a vehicle.
5. **Weight-Mile Tax (for commercial drivers)** – An added burden on our transportation and logistics industries.
6. **Road Use Charges** – Oregon is already testing pay-per-mile driving taxes.
7. **AND NOW...** a **Tire Tax** just for replacing the worn-out tires we need to safely drive!

At what point do we **say enough is enough**? This is blatant **double, triple, and even quadruple taxation on Oregonians** just trying to go about their daily lives.

HB 3362 Is Not About "Pollution" – It's a Money Grab

The bill claims to address "tire pollution and rail transit," but in reality, **75% of this tax revenue is directed to a rail transit fund**. What does rail have to do with people buying tires? This is nothing more than a way to extract more money from everyday drivers to fund unrelated government projects. If the legislature wants to fund rail transit, it should **do so transparently and put it to a vote**, not sneak it into an arbitrary tire tax.

Oregon Families Can't Afford More Hidden Taxes

HB 3362 is yet another example of how out-of-touch policymakers have become with the reality of **rising costs of living**. Inflation is at record highs, Oregonians are struggling to afford housing, groceries, and gas—and now the state wants to make **basic vehicle maintenance even more expensive**?

This tax disproportionately harms **working-class families, rural Oregonians, and small businesses** who rely on their vehicles for work and daily life. Those who **can't afford new electric vehicles** are being targeted, forced to **pay more just to keep their cars on the road**.

Conclusion: Reject HB 3362 and Stop Taxing Us Into the Ground

Oregonians are being crushed under layer upon layer of taxation. We **cannot** continue allowing new taxes to be imposed every time the state wants more revenue. **I urge you to reject HB 3362** and stand up for the hardworking people who are tired of being taxed into submission just for the basic right to drive.

Enough is enough.

Sincerely,
Ben Roche
Albany, OR