



TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

March 4, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek & McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Committee Members:

I write to convey the support of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council of HB 3362, to establish funding for Tire Pollution Prevention to protect Oregon's waterways. Since 6PPD-q is a relatively newly discovered chemical, and is lethal to coho salmon and extremely toxic to other threatened salmonids, we are heartened to see the path being laid to generate funding that will allow restoration practitioners to reduce the pollution caused by tires.

For every dollar spent on restoration projects in Oregon, eighty percent stays in-county and ninety percent stays in-state ([link](#)). Restoration projects bolster local economies and we believe the benefits of restoration projects will be felt across Oregon's communities.

It is daunting to consider that 6PPD-q is ubiquitous in tires, seems to be found in rural and urban areas, and that many roads were built before today's water quality treatment standards and thus convey this pollutant via untreated stormwater entering fish-bearing waterways directly. Optimistically, addressing 6PPD-q is possible: not only have widespread pollutants' impacts been mitigated before (asbestos, lead, etc.), but we already have established technology that effectively reduces 6PPD-q levels. Standard stormwater runoff treatment techniques and infrastructure protect water quality on many levels, including 6PPD-q.

As a Steering Committee member for the Regional 6PPD-q Working Group, I'm confident that restoration practitioners will be able to increase awareness and understanding of this issue as they implement projects to retrofit existing infrastructure to mitigate stormwater pollution; through this work, HB 3362 will help protect salmon populations.

Because the 25% portion of funding would not be able to adequately treat all stormwater outfalls in Oregon, we would support a more robust approach to provide increased resources for tire pollution prevention; we also strongly support the bill in its current form.

Wildlife, and especially salmon, will benefit from this bill; everywhere is a watershed, and Oregon's people will benefit from a healthier ecosystem. Thank you for moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Alexis Barton Castro, Executive Director

Tryon Creek Watershed Council | TryonCreek.org