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HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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**HOUSE REPUBLICANS SLAM TIRE TAX
AHEAD OF COMMITTEE HEARING**

SALEM, Ore. – Today, House Republicans strongly condemned efforts by House Democrats to raise the cost of living for Oregonians with HB 3362, the Tire Tax. [HB 3362](#) would impose a 4% tax on tires sold in Oregon and funnel taxpayer funds towards rail transit, animal crossings, and vague “tire pollution prevention and mitigation.” None of the funds collected would go towards core functions of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

“Oregonians are frustrated by the rising cost of living and the Tire Tax will make it more expensive for families to drop their kids off at school, drive to work, and pick up groceries,” said **House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby)**. “House Republicans want Oregonians to keep more of what they make and oppose new taxes that increase the cost of living.”

Minutes before the Joint Transportation Committee held a [hearing](#) on the bill, [written public testimony](#) opposing the Tire Tax trounced testimony in support with 88%, or 1,556 submissions, opposing the Democrats’ tax compared to 12%, or 212 submissions, in support.

“This tax does nothing to ensure that roads are paved, snow is plowed, or potholes are filled. We are told ODOT’s Operations and Maintenance budget is in crisis, and it’s clear Democrat’s priorities are in crisis too,” said **Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany)**, Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. “If it weren’t for Republicans asking the hard questions, some media scrutiny, and investigative journalism, the only discussion would be around how much more to take from Oregonians.”

““The Tire Tax is a direct attack on working class and rural Oregonians who have to drive longer distances to get to work. Purchasing new tires is already expensive and can often be a budget buster for many Oregonians,” said **Rep. E. Werner Reschke (R-Klamath Falls)**, Vice-Chair of the House Revenue Committee. “Tires are an essential product for family transportation, and taxing them does nothing to make life more affordable for Oregonians.”

“This effort to raise taxes and increase costs on Oregonians is another example of Democrats’ misplaced priorities,” said **Rep. Jeff Helfrich (R-Hood River)**, member of Joint Committee on Transportation. “Oregon doesn’t have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem and we urgently need to get back to the basics.”

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