

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Room
Tapes - 58

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Ken Baker, Chair
Sen. Mae Yih, Vice-Chair
Sen. John Lim
Sen. Marylin Shannon
Sen. Dick Springer

STAFF PRESENT:

Janet Adkins, Committee Administrator
Gina Rumbaugh, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD:

HB 2361 Public Hearing and Work Session
HB 2026 Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 626 Reconsideration and Work Session
SB 708 Public Hearing
Info: Transfer of PUC transportation responsibilities to ODOT

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE , SIDE A

003 CHAIR BAKER: Calls the meeting to order (1:24PM).

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2361

Witness: Ray Gribling, Recreational Vehicle Industry Association

005 RAY GRIBLING, RECREATIONAL VEHICLE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION: Supports HB 2361. Submits and reads testimony [EXHIBIT A].

040 ADMINISTRATOR ADKINS: Distributes map of Oregon highways [EXHIBIT B].

WORK SESSION ON HB 2361

050 MOTION: CHAIR BAKER MOVES HB 2361-A BE SENT TO THE FLOOR WITH A DO PASS

RECOMMENDATION

ADMINISTRATOR ADKINS: Reviews HB 2361 and distributed map.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, SENS. BAKER, SHANNON, AND YIH VOTE AYE; SEN. SPRINGER VOTES NO; SEN. LIM EXCUSED; THE MOTION CARRIES
Sen. Shannon will lead discussion on the Floor.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2026

Witnesses: Jim Renner, Executive Director, Oregon Trail Coordinating Council
Joanne Peterson, Manager, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV)
Richard Ackerman, Oregon Trail traveler

NOTE: The Senate Committee on Transportation was present at the House General Government and Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on Transportation Public Hearing for

HB 2026 on 1/31/95; please refer to the House minutes for further information.

100 ADMINISTRATOR ADKINS: Reviews HB 2026-A.

115 JIM RENNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OREGON TRAIL COORDINATING COUNCIL: Supports HB 2026-A. Submits letter on behalf of Benjamin Whiteley [EXHIBIT C] and promotional flyer [EXHIBIT D]. Gives background of organization and Oregon Trail license plate program.

155 JOANNE PETERSON, MANAGER, DMV: Discusses affect of HB 2026-A on DMV; agency does not anticipate increased costs. Submits and summarizes testimony [EXHIBIT E].

170 RICHARD ACKERMAN, OREGON TRAIL TRAVELER: Supports HB 2026-A. Gives examples of increased interest and travel along the Oregon Trail, which benefits business.

220 SEN. YIH: You collected \$1 million for the two years the plates have been issued?

RENNER: Yes. Also, we have made one grant award and expect to make another.

SEN. YIH: Do you anticipate \$1 million for the next three years?

RENNER: If we maintain an average of \$35,000/month in these revenues, we would realize \$1.44 million over the next four years.

245 SEN. YIH: Won't the state will lose revenue because of the reduced replacement cost?

PETERSON: That revenue reflects the difference in what we would receive if the bill passes and the plate replacement fee remained at \$11 versus if the bill passes and the plate fee goes down to \$1.50. If the bill doesn't pass, we wouldn't get any of the revenue. Reducing the replacement cost to \$1.50 makes it consistent with other plates.

275 SEN. SPRINGER: For how long will have both the Tree plate and the Trail plate?

CHAIR BAKER: Chair's intention over interim is to look at the idea of consolidating the number of plates in Oregon.

SEN. SPRINGER: What's the potential market for Trail plates?

RENNER: There are approximately 2,000,000 total plate registrations in the

state of Oregon, with 142,867 (as of 2/95) being Oregon Trail plates.
WORK SESSION ON HB 2026

320 MOTION: CHAIR BAKER MOVES HB 2026-A BE SENT TO THE FLOOR WITH A DO PASS
RECOMMENDATION

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, FOUR MEMBERS PRESENT VOTE AYE; SEN. LIM
EXCUSED; THE MOTION CARRIES

Sen. Yih will lead discussion on the Floor.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 708

Witness: Doug Tindall, Field Operations Engineer, Oregon Department of
Transportation

350 DOUG TINDALL, FIELD OPERATIONS ENGINEER, ODOT: Submits and summarizes
testimony, which includes copy of Ken HuSB y's testimony given on 3/23/95
[EXHIBIT F].

410 SEN. SPRINGER: What causes the major fissures on the I-205 right travel
lane?

TINDALL: The I-205 pavement did not rut, rather it cracked and split
apart; explains why that might have occurred on I-205. That's not the
rutting effect like you see on I-5.

-In response to Chair Baker, cracking of any sort is generally due to
fatigue

460 SEN. SHANNON: Many drivers in our neigHB orhood drive with studs, yet
there are no ruts.

TINDALL: It's the very high amount of traffic, the number of loadings,
which make the difference. Traffic volumes are very high on I-5.

TAPE 58, SIDE A

035 TINDELL: Continues testimony. Safety aspects of studded tires, Exhibit
F.

065 SEN. SHANNON: Questions seeming contradictory testimony that says
studded tires are tearing up the road, but they're not effective as a
traction device.

TINDALL: Tests show abrasive wear on cement pavements that can be
attributed to nothing else but studs. The Alaska research did not conclude

studded tires are any better on snow, although they did conclude they're
better on ice.

SEN. SHANNON: Many people don't chain up on ice, and that's when you need
studs.

090 TINDELL: Summary, Exhibit F.

100 SEN. YIH: Requests further clarification of testimony that 85% of the
time vehicles with studded tires are less safe.

TINDELL: Stopping distance on bare pavement is longer for tires with studs

than it is for normal all season radials. Expands on explanation. Studded tires are allowed 11/1 to 4/30.

SEN. YIH: Maybe we should shorten the studded tire season.

TINDALL: We'd support that as something that would reduce damage due to studded tires.

150 SEN. YIH: Safety is more important than damage to roads. You may want to charge some user fee for studded tires. We might lose safety features if we go to lighterweight studs.

TINDALL: I have not seen any research on lightweight studs that would indicate they are less effective than regular weight studs. Many scandanavian countries use lightweight studs.

170 SEN. SHANNON: When was the data gathered for the Alaska report?

TINDALL: Early in 1994. We'll provide you a copy.

RECONSIDERATION WORK SESSION OF SB 626

180 CHAIR BAKER: Would like to reconsider to rescind referral to Ways and Means, and also to include more specific language about the location of Newberg/Dundee.

210 MOTION: SEN. LIM MOVES THE RULES BE SUSPENDED FOR POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF THE VOTE ON SB 626

VOTE: ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, HEARING NO OBJECTIONS THE RULES ARE SUSPENDED

MOTION: SEN. LIM MOVES TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE BY WHICH SB 626 WAS PASSED

VOTE: ALL MEMEBERS ARE PRESENT, HEARING NO OBJECTIONS THE VOTE BY WHICH SB 626 WAS PASSED IS RECONSIDERED

215 MOTION: CHAIR BAKER MOVES TO AMEND SB 626-3, PAGE 4, LINE 27, AFTER "BYPASS" INSERT "SITUATED IN YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON"

VOTE: ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, HEARING NO OBJECTIONS THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED

MOTION: CHAIR BAKER MOVES SB 626, AS AMENDED, TO THE FLOOR WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, SENS. BAKER, LIM, SHANNON, AND YIH VOTE AYE; SEN. SPRINGER VOTES NO; THE MOTION CARRIES

Sens. Bunn and Shannon will lead discussion on the Floor.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 708 (Re-opened)

Witnesses: Dave Gil, Manager Discount Tire Centers, Store #76
Representative Lisa Naito, House District 15, State of Oregon
Curt Curtis, Sergeant, Oregon State Police

250 DAVE GIL, MANAGER, DISCOUNT TIRE CENTERS, STORE #76: Suggests requirement that lightweight stud be only type of stud permitted. Submits and reads testimony, which includes photographs and chart [EXHIBIT G].

315 -Economic considerations, page 2
350 -Safety shortcomings, page 3
440 -Summary, page 5

TAPE 57, SIDE B

025 SEN. YIH: Are lightweight studded tires as effective as regular studded tires?

GIL: There is no difference in traction.

045 SEN. LIM: Comments that lightweight and heavyweight studs would seem to cause the same amount of damage.

070 REP. LISA NAITO, HOUSE DISTRICT 15, STATE OF OREGON: Submits testimony in support of original SB 708 [EXHIBIT H]. Suggests a user fee for studded tires.

085 CURT CURTIS, SERGEANT, OREGON STATE POLICE: Supports SB 708-4 as amended with lightweight studs. Submits and reads testimony [EXHIBIT I].

100 SEN. LIM: Asks if there's a difference between lightweight and regular studs.

CURTIS: Cites ODOT's figure that there is 50% reduction in damage with lightweight studs.

INFO: TRANSFER OF PUC TRANSPORTATION RESPONSIBILITIES TO ODOT (LC 2824)

Witnesses: Representative Eldon Johnson, House District 51, State of Oregon
Joan Robinson, Legislative Counsel

120 CHAIR BAKER: Opens informational hearing, and gives introductory remarks.

135 REP. ELDON JOHNSON, HOUSE DISTRICT 51, STATE OF OREGON: Supports LC 2824. Submits and explains informational charts [EXHIBIT J].
170 -Rationale for LC 2824, predominately deregulation
225 -ODOT flexibility
240 -Rate regulation

260 CHAIR BAKER: Briefly summarizes transfer of functions and confirms many of the programs would be transferred intact as far as functions and authorities.

REP. JOHNSON: Transfer of functions, not necessarily transfer of people. ODOT will make decisions about employment; they are reviewing direct appointment.

CHAIR BAKER: This committee would look at functions and form of the bill, then it would go to Ways and Means who would look at staffing levels.

295 SEN. YIH: Have you considered moving truck safety to the state police instead of DMV?

REP. JOHNSON: Yes, we talked about that. The cost of putting a trained state police officer on the road is substantially higher than the cost of a trained safety officer/weighmaster.

330 SEN. YIH: Do you have the number of positions in your charts?

REP. JOHNSON: No, I did not put numbers on these. I roughly estimated that 65-70 people can come out of that organization.

SEN. YIH: Are you contemplating continuation of the present weight-mile collection?

REP. JOHNSON: Yes.

CHAIR BAKER: It is the chair's intent not to deal with weight-mile tax.

390 JOAN ROBINSON, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL: Addresses the current statutory structure of the PUC and how it relates to LC 2824. Administrator Adkins distributes copies of 1993 ORS chapters to committee members for reference [EXHIBIT K].

-Begins review, Chapter 756, Public Utility Commission

TAPE 58, SIDE B

025 ROBINSON: Continues testimony; Chapter 760, Railroad Regulation.

-Chapter 761, Transportation of Hazardous Material and Safety

055 -Chapter 763, Railroad Crossings; Chapter 764, Railroad Employees

-Chapter 767, Motor Carriers; Chapter 768, Registration of Commercial Vehicles

080 -Provision in the draft that requires ODOT to come back next session to make recommendations on improving the statutes; a number of issues are still being determined.

110 CHAIR BAKER: Adjourns the meeting (2:53PM).

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Gina Rumbaugh Janet Adkins
Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A - Testimony on HB 2361 -- Ray Gribbling -- 2 pages

B - Map re HB 2361 -- Staff -- 1 page

C - Letter re HB 2026 -- Jim Renner (on behalf of Ben Whiteley) -- 1 page

D - Promotional flyer re HB 2026 -- Jim Renner -- 2 pages

E - Testimony on HB 2026 -- Joanne Peterson -- 1 page

F - Testimony and informational material on SB 708 -- Doug Tindall -- 13 pages

G - Testimony and informatinal material on SB 708 -- Dave Gil -- 8 pages

H - Testimony on SB 708 -- Rep. Lisa Naito -- 2 pages

I - Testimony and informational material on SB 708 -- Curt Curtis -- 7 pages

J - Charts re LC 2824 -- Rep. Eldon Johnson -- 3 pages

K - Informational material re LC 2824 -- Staff -- 13 pages

L - Letter re SB 708 -- Staff (on behalf of Sarah Lamp) -- 1 page

M - Informational material re SB 708 -- Staff (on behalf of Doug Tindall) -- 22 pages