

**From:** <[mmsquito@me.com](mailto:mmsquito@me.com)>  
**Date:** February 8, 2017 at 7:37:53 PM AKST  
**To:** Senator Cathy Giessel <[sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject: Studded Tire Tax is a mistake**

Hi Cathy,

I heard today on the radio that you have sponsored SB50 to tax studded tires \$75/tire. This is a mistake! As it is drivers use worn or summer tires in the winter, that contribute to accidents. A studded tire has the potential to add just a little bit of traction to control a vehicle. Without studded tires more members of our families will be involved in head on collisions that will kill some of us! No doubt your bill will further discourage drivers to buy studded tires and it will do little to preserve the roads.

In my past I used to work for Wilder Construction and was paid to resurface prematurely worn out roads and even then I thought it was a waste. I worked with John Lambert (Wilder Paving Superintendent) who was a member of an alliance or committee that met regularly to discuss paving issues in the state. John was in direct contact with Newt Bingham who tried all kinds of things to improve asphalt surface wear with little or no success ( Ex: Stone Mastic mixes of all kinds, special hard rock from Cantwell, various polymer blends, rubberized asphalt, etc, etc.).

Having paved for a long time in Alaska, John told me (15+ years ago) that at the time there were three roadways that had been paved with Chevron Asphalt oil that were still in use. I recall one of them being A Street between 15th and Northern Lights Blvd. (high ADT) which had held up way beyond the 5-7 years (I think about 20+ years) we are getting with all the various new mixes out there using polymer modified asphalt oil from Alaska North Slope crude. You see before we had our own asphalt oil made by Tesoro in Nikiski, Chevron imported asphalt oil made from Venezuela crude oil.

There used to be people in the industry like John Lambert who paved a lot of roads over a whole career in Alaska that knew that the oil was the factor in the mix that changed. Newt Bingham couldn't get the Chevron oil for various reasons and tried everything else and borrowed what ever idea he could from other places like the Nordic countries.

I have seen Dimond Blvd ruts within 1 week of fresh pavement without one studded tire ever touching the asphalt. I have milled a stretch of Bragaw just north of the Glenn Hwy adjacent the Red Apple grocery store where the asphalt roadway was dripping (flowing down hill) over time in excess of 18" as measured from a vertical valve box. I have seen many many examples of rutted roads where the the asphalt was higher than the paved surface in the middle of the lane and again at the concrete curb. I DON'T THINK STUDED TIRES CAUSE ASPHALT TO GROW OUTSIDE OF THE WHEEL PATHS! I also acknowledge that studded tires do not improve the life of asphalt either.

There are also subbase issues at play as well (the gravel below the asphalt).

So, I felt that it was my duty to forward this information to you. John Lambert would be an excellent resource if he is still out there. I have high regard for your husband Rich, and I suspect that he is convinced that studded tires are the problem with his materials background, but he is wrong given that we used to have roadways with high ADT that lasted a long time. Please forward this email to him and I would be happy to share any further information but I pretty much spilled my guts from what I can recall, and I confess that I am not an asphalt expert. But then again I don't have to be a Climatologist to know that our planet has been warming since Noahs flood, with fluctuations of course.

Please reconsider and withdraw your bill.

Sincerely,

Marc Guzik  
907-268-1956

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**From:** Stacey Dean [<mailto:SDean@graylingconstruction.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cody Lee <[CLee@graylingconstruction.com](mailto:CLee@graylingconstruction.com)>  
**Subject:** SB 50 Increased Studded Tire Fee

Good morning.

I wanted to let you know that right now my cost to put a set of studded tires on my company vehicles, most have dualies, is \$30. Now you are interested in increasing this to \$450/vehicle. Wow is all I can say. We have the lowest gas tax in the nation, yet you hit tires with a sledge hammer. This tax will only delay purchases of tires by people who need them because they can't afford to pay the \$450. Studded tires are a safety item. Often they are the first purchase that new comers to Alaska make. Don't ask new comers to delay the purchase of studded tires due to this super high tax.

My suggestions are do one of the following:

1. Add \$25/vehicle for registration – consumer vehicles
2. Add \$50/vehicle for registration – commercial vehicles
3. Add \$.05/gallon for gas tax
4. All of the above

Do not gamble on whether people will replace a very important safety item like studded tires. In the winter studded tires are sometimes that only thing that keeps people alive. Do not make studded tires so expensive that people gamble on other's safety. Remember that next time you here are about a head on collision caused because someone didn't have studded tires. Studded tires save lives...

Sincerely,  
Stacey Dean, ASID  
Grayling Construction  
7133 Arctic Blvd Suite 3  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
907-344-5733  
[www.graylingconstruction.com](http://www.graylingconstruction.com)

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**From:** David Roe [[mailto:dardevil\\_68@hotmail.com](mailto:dardevil_68@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB 50

Senator Giessel,

As a constituent in your district, I was pleased to have voted for you, because I believed you had the best interest of your constituents in mind. Today I read about your desire to increase the tax paid for studded

tires. This is exactly the opposite of the best interest of your constituents. Yes, fixing roads costs money, and yes we are in a fiscal crisis, but this is the worst plan conceivable to try to pay for road maintenance. Maintenance is not more important than safety, and that is what this \$75 per tire tax does. I understand that you spend the majority of the worst road conditions in Juneau where things aren't so bad, but here in Anchorage, and many places across the state, having studded tires SAVES LIVES. When you overtax something like this, you create a situation where a person must choose to either spend the extra money (which many do not have) or to drive a vehicle with less safe tires. I don't know how many people I've seen with so-called winter tires spinning them on the road in front of me or fishtailing down the road or losing control around corners, while studded cars make these exact same conditions and speeds much easier and safer. When you force someone to choose to not drive studded tires, you have put every one at risk of being the one that is injured or killed when that person loses control of their vehicle. The more people who are forced to make this decision due to your desire to tax the studs, the greater the risk to the entire populous, including myself and my family. I implore you to reconsider this bill and drop it before it goes any further. Passage of this bill will present a clear danger to your constituents.

David Roe  
Anchorage AK

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**From:** Ruth Andersson [<mailto:ruthmand@alaskan.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 9:03 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire fees

Sen. Giessel,

I am one of your constituents living on the upper hillside and very unhappy with your proposal. We live on a steep road and have a rather long and steep driveway requiring studded tires many times a year, particularly the past two winters when we had nothing but ice on our roadways. We have lived in the same home for close to 40 years and I remember the days before studded tires were available. To get to work every morning we had to put on chains to get down to Hillside Dr., then take them off on the side of the road. I kept a snowmachine suit in my car to put on over my work clothes so I could crawl under the car to remove the chains and put them back on on my way home in the evening. Studded tires were a salvation!

Being aware that studded tires were blamed for road damage I started taking note. Some years ago, Hillside Dr. was repaved in early summer. By the time fall rolled around there were already grooves back in the road. I was quite surprised and started paying closer attention. The same thing happened to the New Seward Hwy. after repaving. All this leads me to conclude that the problem with the grooves in our roads probably has absolutely nothing to do with studded tires and most likely is due to the makeup of the asphalt laid down or the preparation of the roadbed. I strongly urge you to investigate those issues. The asphalt companies have a vested interest in putting down new paving that doesn't last very long, don't you think? There is a small stretch on the New Seward Hwy. just north of the Dimond interchange where some different type of material is on the road and it seems to be holding up much better than the regular roadbed,. I suggest you to look into that.

And then there is the very definite safety factor that comes with having studded tires. This is a regressive tax that punishes those of us that may not have the means to pay an additional \$275 per set of tires, an obscene increase by the way, and still need the studded tires to get around safely. We are seniors and live on a limited income which is already a challenge in Alaska. We also expect to be able to drive safely and expect others to be able to do so as well without outrageous surcharges and/or taxes.

And lastly, if the money collected were to go into a dedicated fund for rutted road repair, proven to be caused by studded tire damage, that would be one thing but we all know that is not a possibility by law. So, basically you are proposing that those of us that require studded tires to leave our homes chip in an additional \$275 to the general fund. Do you realize the absurdity of that?

Your job is to cut spending across the board. You can start by cutting boards! Cutting spending on government agencies and departments. When you have done that with a sharp knife move on to government subsidies. Contract out services wherever possible. Why can we taxpayers see the excess and you cannot? Investigate why some of our roadbeds are more prone to rutting and look into using better materials or methods, and so on. That is your job as my representative in Juneau.

Raising taxes and finding sneaky ways to collect more money from us citizens should be the last item on your to do list. As someone who has voted for you every time your name has been on the ballot, I have to say that at this time I am very, very disappointed in you and I do hope you will reconsider and withdraw this poorly thought out bill.

Ruth Andersson  
12921 Midori Dr.  
Anchorage AK 99516

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**From:** Nancy Perry [<mailto:nancyp@ak.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please do not support Senate Bill 50. Making safety more expensive is not what Alaskans need. When people opt not to have studded tires they not only put themselves at greater risk for injury and death but also all the people around them, drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike. Someone who can't stop when they need to because they couldn't afford and extra \$300 could cost me my life. Please look for remedies to the budget crisis which do not risk lives.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Perry

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**From:** [lmarkov@gci.net](mailto:lmarkov@gci.net) [<mailto:lmarkov@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tires

I strongly

Disagree with your studded tire tax. This only make roads less safe as this gives an extra amount of needed traction on ice and snow. I would suggest raising the fine to \$250 per tire for the folks that choose to drive past the legal date. I would hope law enforcement would even catch my own son who has summer tires already mounted but is too lazy to change them out.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** Patrick Hartshorn [<mailto:patrick@alaskan.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Tax on studded tires.

Dear Senator Giessel;

Please reconsider SB50 if in fact it is what was relayed to me. I was told it included a \$75 tax on studded tire purchases?? If so, please do some research, contact high end superintendents of major construction projects, studs are not the problem, lack of funding is! Everyone jumps to conclusions that Studded tires cause the ruts in our road systems, not true, or at least probably 95% not true. Ruts are caused by weight and poor quality materials, partially due to the softer products used due to our weather changes. There are much better products and methods on the market but no one uses them due to reduced budgets on these highway jobs. Studded tires are a minimal wear issue yet are a huge life saver to those that use them properly, without a sense of security motivating stupid driving habits. Studs are proven to provide better traction and stopping power to avoid initial loss of traction and more positive stopping when presented with an emergency. Taxing studs will only stop the sale of studs and could lead to more safety issues, is that what your looking to do???

Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Pat H.

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**From:** Chelsea Lindquist [<mailto:chelserin@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 9:42 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Tax on snow tires

Senator Giessel,

Today I read about your proposed tax on studded tires and would like to express my opposition to this tax.

First of all, the proposed increase - from \$5 to \$75 per tire - is extravagant. Studded tires are not a luxury item. They are an essential safety measure for winter driving and they need to be an available option for all Alaskans. For many people in Anchorage, not to mention those in the rest of the state, spending an additional \$275 on tires would be a hardship, and could even keep them from getting studs at all. Having cars on the roads without proper winter tires would be dangerous for everyone and could result in an increase in accidents, which would increase time and money spent by our police and ambulance workers. Not to mention the increase in insurance premiums.

As an elected public servant you should be working to help the people of you district, as well as all Alaskans, have more options for making safe decisions. Instead this proposed tax penalizes the middle and lower income residents.

As an alternative revenue source I am very supportive of house bill 115, using permanent fund earnings and implementing an income tax. I also strongly believe that we need to curb the amount of money we are giving to oil companies in the form of credits and subsidies.

Please reconsider your proposed tax on studded tires. It is misguided and will only hurt Alaskans economically and make our roads less safe.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Vukovich  
Anchorage, 99516

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From: Curtis Smith [<mailto:bogusaddy1@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:57 AM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Opposed to SB 50

Dear Senator Giessel,

I would like to express my adamant opposition to increasing the tax on studded tires (SB 50). I have yet to see conclusive evidence that non-studded tires are just as safe as studded tires, and those tires for which there is scant evidence of having nearly the same degree of safety are often too expensive for many Alaskans. Simply put, studded tires provide an affordable safe option. SB 50 would make Alaskans choose between their wallets and safety. It would be a shame if even one additional person died or sustained an injury because they were forced to purchase tires they could afford at the expense of increased safety.

Sincerely,  
Curtis Smith

7011 Gibbs Hill Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
907-240-2640

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From: Bobbie Cook [[mailto:cook\\_bobbie@hotmail.com](mailto:cook_bobbie@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:56 AM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Studded Tires

I am outraged by your proposal to increase the tax on a single studded tire from five dollars to seventy five dollars. This seems like a money gouging plan to fatten the state budget at the expense of safety. Our icy road conditions can persist up to 6 months a year. With global warming comes the unpredictable weather patterns we have been experiencing in recent years. The snow covered roads of the past are being replaced with far more ice covered roads today. While icy road conditions are becoming more prevalent, the road maintenance cuts have left us with less snow removal, less sanding, and far less safe roads.

I have listened to people who refuse to buy studded tires for the last thirty years. They claim that the tire ruts in the roads are caused by studded tires. However if one examines these ruts more closely,

they will find that these ruts are not produced from surface wear. If that were true all of the ruts would show subsurface structure showing through the ripping up of the top surface. Instead these ruts are caused by compression from the weight of traffic on a road bed without significant substructure. Alaska's road surfaces are built over areas of tundra and marshes most often lacking in bedrock construction in other states.

This type of tax proposal is hazardous to the safety of Alaskan Drivers. It should not be considered without significant studies, road maintenance, and construction. Another study to consider would be how many people with studs vs. without studs incur traffic accidents each winter. Consultation with insurance companies would also be significant.

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**From:** [thirdeye@alaska.net](mailto:thirdeye@alaska.net) [<mailto:thirdeye@alaska.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 12:57 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Senate bill 50

Dear Senator Giessel:

Regarding your recent Studded tire tax proposal. Senate bill 50

Regarding the issue of burdening yet another tax on Alaskan citizens to the tune of \$300.00 for every new set of studded tires that they decides to purchase

The first problem that I have with this new tax proposal is the irrefutable issue of its effect on potential life endangerment. For the record, it is true that several of the newer tires do have increased grip ability on winter roads. But any 5 year old knows that those tires may work on several types of road conditions, but not on the most severe types of black ice, and marginal road surfaces.

I live in Girdwood, and have been navigating the town of Girdwood, and the Seward highway now for 45 years. Just 3 years ago, I had my first every single car accident on my way to town near milepost 107. My speed was 52 mph, and the conditions were slick, but nothing that I had not previously encountered hundreds of times before. About half way around a long corner, my rear end slid out, I fishtailed twice, and slammed into the rock wall on the side of the highway.

After careful investigation, it was simply because my studded tires had worn out, and were no longer able to provide the grip, that new studded tires would have afforded me. Neither my speed, nor the conditions, nor my driving skills were the problem. I could very easily have slammed into another car or truck, and cause a major accident or even a death, simply due to worn out studded tires.

My second issue with this proposed tax is the effect that it will have on individuals, and families that simply cannot afford this new "luxury" tax to be able to buy these tires, and protect their families safety while on the roads.

My third issue concerns the issue of what happens when a person purchases a set of new studded tires at \$900.00, and then hits a rock on the Seward highway, and ruins one of the tires.

He or she returns to the tire shop only to be informed that they cannot simply replace the one bad tire, and they must by law replace the entire set? This is currently a huge issue with todays tire stores, and its clients. So one destroyed tire could cause a driver to have to spend an additional \$900.00 on yet another

set of tires, thereby imposing severe financial hardship on every driver who simply wants to enjoy a safe driving experience.

My final issue involves the imposition of a tax on me and thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of your constituents, so that damage to our roads can be repaired.

But, if I for example on a normal week, make a single trip to Anchorage; that works out to be roughly a 80 to 100 mile round trip. But compare my driving habits to the Valley commuter from Wasilla who is spends 5 or 6 days a week on the Glenn Highway, and maybe 2 hours of every day driving around Anchorage. Or a delivery truck on a constant route around town, or a fleet of Taxi's, and Pizza delivery drivers who spend 12 hours a day on our roads?

Your proposal severely penalizes me, the occasional driver, who lives on a limited Social Security income, for the excesses of thousands of other drivers. This is neither prudent, nor fair.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and I desperately urge you to drop this usury tax, as in the end it will literally cost lives in the long run, and save a few dollars in the short term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Randy Brandon

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**From:** Susan Williams [<mailto:smwilliams@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB 50

Dear Senator,

I am opposed to the proposed fee on studded snow tires. It is a tax on safety and the middle class. A \$75 per tire tax on installation would be \$300 per season on top of the cost to put on the tires. The legislation doesn't even have the money designated for road. It says it may be used for road maintenance .

This fee will encourage people to leave their snow tires on all year. It would be worth risking a ticket.

Please pull this proposal. Families safety should not be taxed especially at a time winter road maintenance is being reduced.

Susan

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**From:** [fred@mtaonline.net](mailto:fred@mtaonline.net) [<mailto:fred@mtaonline.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 9:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire fee increase

I would like for you to reconsider SB 50. We tend to blame studded tires for the ruts in the roads in Alaska. That is not very true. Every road like a building needs to start with a good base! We simply don't have the right aggregate in Alaska to build the proper base needed for our roads. We have round gravel. Like marbles it doesn't stack up very good. What s happening to our roads is the gravel is settling causing the ruts. The ruts don't match tire width of vehicles. I can go on but, I hope you understand what I am trying to say. I have been schooled on this at Vicksburg Miss. Thanks for your time. Fred Thibodeau, Chugiak

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** [mike@50below.net](mailto:mike@50below.net) [<mailto:mike@50below.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire proposal

Dear Senator,

I haven't seen the actual bill yet but did see a write up where you were proposing to increase the tax on studded tires from \$5 each to \$75 each making a tax of \$300 on a set of studded tires. This is one of the most outrageous things I've heard come out of Juneau in a while. Especially your rationale for doing so...studded tires cause ruts in the road.

I live in Delta Junction and we have no ruts in our roads and it's not because nobody here uses studs. It's because we don't have the volume of traffic that you people do in south central Alaska. The ruts in the roads there are caused by the sheer weight of trucks, especially during times when the ground is soft, and the sheer number of vehicles that travel your streets. Perhaps you should consult AKDOT and ask them what really causes ruts in the roads.

We drive to Fairbanks for most of our shopping here and the roads are almost always glare ice. Why? Because the road maintenance here is terrible. The Birch Lake station has been closed and the snow plows in Delta do nothing but groom the streets in and around town. The local theory is that the budgets have been cut and DOT wants us to suffer so we will complain and you will give them more money. Everything's political, huh. Meanwhile who suffers. The citizens. And with your proposal who will suffer...the citizens. The roads here in winter are downright dangerous at times in winter. Not everyone has a 4x4 SUV with anti-lock brakes and traction control. For glare ice there is no substitute for studded tires. You should do your homework on that one. My studded Hakkepelitas already cost \$750 per set, now you want me to pay over \$1,000 for them? And for what? Is there going to be more road repairs with the extra money? I doubt that seriously.

You Legislative types have been spending beyond your means for years now. Why don't you cut the budget and try to get some oil companies to invest in our state. Don't punish the people of our State, solve the problem. Isn't that why you're there.

Mike White  
P.O. Box 1718  
Delta Junction, AK 99737

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**From:** Matthew Pauli [<mailto:kickwax64@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 5:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50

Senator Giessel:

I am a constituent. Our house is on Circle Drive. We are in a LRSA so our roads are plowed early and sanded often. I realize that this situation is different then when I access Hillside Drive and O'Malley Road to the New Seward Highway.

I have long been an advocate for studless snow tires. They are still on my truck. However, my attitude has changed on the subject due to the poor winter maintenance which in turn leads to ice build-up and accumulation which is equally as dangerous as the ruts created by studded tire use. Similar to January 26 of this year, the forecast for the Anchorage area next week includes rain. This sets up a situation that state DOT will not respond on a timely basis. The roads will be

I would imagine a review of road design and construction should also be in the discussion. Five year vs. 20 year road design?

I realize the fiscal situation the state of Alaska is in. \$75/tire is not an answer; it is just window dressing on the larger fiscal problem.

For the record, my wife and I have lived in Anchorage virtually all of our lives (now in our 6th decade). We also realize the Alaska(n) aversion to pay for the services they utilize. We regularly commit a good deal of our income to activities that at one time received direct public funding. We are not averse to paying for the services we utilize; both public and private. We are not averse to the use of our PFD for state services, a state income tax, increased user fees, sales taxes. We both grew up where we benefited from liberal college lending programs (forgiveness), Projects '80's, grain elevators that were never used...

Thank you for your time,  
Matt Pauli  
11945 Circle Drive  
Anchorage

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**From:** Trevor Thompson [[mailto:gub\\_wv@hotmail.com](mailto:gub_wv@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:29 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** No Taxes

Senator Cathy Giessel:

I am writing to you concerning a disturbing article I saw in the ADN. A proposal to increase the per studded tire tax from \$5 to \$75 dollars is, there is only one way to put it, insane. We cannot tax our way out of our current fiscal crisis and balancing the budget on the backs of your constituency is definitely not the way to do it. Studded tires can serve as a life saving devices for our vehicles and your proposal will price many people out of that option. If we want our road maintenance to be less, we should work with our contractors and choose road surface material that lasts longer and performs better. Also, maybe our road contracts should have a performance guarantee stating that the surface shouldn't need to be redone every 3-5 five years as seems to be the case.

I implore you to work with your fellow senators to cut any and all waste from government before a single thought is turned to raising taxes on anyone in this state. I have lived in Alaska my entire life and

it sickens me to have watched our state government grow unchecked into the behemoth it is today. Please embrace libertarian and conservative views of government that it be no bigger than necessary. Thank you for your time in this manner.

Respectfully,  
Trevor Thompson  
3601 Twilight Ln  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
907-350-0349

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From: John See [<mailto:jseeforester@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:35 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Studded Tire Tax

Senator Giessel: I am somewhat appalled by your proposal to raise taxes on something that I consider a "life & safety" issue. I would like you to consider that public safety agencies in Alaska all utilize studded tires for "first responder" vehicles. There are good reasons for this decision. Please do some research and complete an in-depth analysis of the different alternatives before pushing this faulty bill through the system.

I personally have tried the studless winter tires (several brands) with an open mind and have found all of them to be significantly inferior to the studded variety. This issue seems to be heavily weighted by the tire industry. Why is that? What is the profit difference? How about talking to the experts on winter driving; APD, AFD, AST and other emergency response agencies who demand that their employees use studded winter tires for good reasons.

Please carefully consider this faulty proposal before putting our loved ones at additional risk because of the dramatic cost increase mandated by this legislation. This proposed tax will restrict the use of studded tires to the wealthy. Is that fair? I think not!

John W. See

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**From:** Colleen Darrell [<mailto:aurorasky@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 6:58 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Have you lost your friggin mind?

Senator Giessel...

I can only attribute your arrogance to being some spoon-fed bureaucrat who hasn't had it too rough! What a loser you are to even suggest that a \$75/per tire tax be placed on winter tires... how friggin stupid that was of you! Are you some scientific expert on winter tires?

CUT YOUR LOUSY AND LAZY STATE EMPLOYEES... CUT 1/3 AND LEAVE THE REST OF US ALONE. Then move to all the hand-out programs... Then tell the natives to pay

their fair share since most of them are the recipients of all those free-bee programs... then you can inform the holy than thou oil companies that their oil taxes are being down-sized. They laid off thousands of people... WHY THE HELL CAN'T THE STATE FOLLOW SUIT? TOO GOOD FOR THAT? I HAVEN'T WORKED SINCE LAST JULY 2016 SINCE YOU IDIOTS HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO PRODUCE ANY ACTUAL JOBS...

TIRED OF THE LEGISLATURE'S INCOMPETENCY... WAS IT NOT BAD ENOUGH WHEN YOU IDIOTS LEGALIZED POT AND DOWNSIZED THE TROOPERS?

YOU NEED TO BE REPLACED

C Darrell

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From: Mark Inghram [<mailto:minghram@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:43 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: STUD TAX

SENATOR GIESEL:

I am very disappointed in your proposed increase on taxes applicable to studded tires. Safety should be your primary concern. The statement that I saw you made said that the studdless tires are "almost as good" as the studded tires. I doubt you are qualified to make that conclusion, and from what I have read there is not agreement on the effectiveness of studdless tires. It is also likely that some of the rutting common throughout Alaska is not the result of stud use, but rather the result of soft asphalt, poor subgrades, and the "spongy soil" that is common throughout much of Alaska during breakup. In essence, you are proposing that we put people at more risk in order to save a money. I find that incomprehensible.

I would speculate that the cost of road repair from the use of studded tires to the economy as a whole is likely less than the cost to the economy of loss due to preventable accidents with the use of studded tires. What is the cost to the economy of the medical bills incurred from the accidents prevented by studded tires? What is the cost to the economy of the loss of productivity due to lost time on the job from injury/death from preventable accidents from the use of studded tires? What is the cost to the economy of repair of vehicles damaged needing repair from accidents preventable by use of studded tires? What are the unquantifiable costs to families that have lost loved ones due to accidents preventable with the use of studded tires? Have you really made an attempt to address all of the costs to the economy potentially saved from the use of studded tires? In reality, there is likely no way to quantify these issues. My conclusion, repairing the roads in Alaska resulting from damage due to stud use may be substantial, but so to is the cost to the economy from the damage, injury, and deaths resulting from not using studs. Even without the ability to accurately determine the true costs, Alaska needs to consider the cost of repair of the roads as a cost for keeping people safer. That keeping people safer is enough justification without even looking at the real costs.

What your proposed tax on studded tires is an attempt to do is to control Alaskan's choices through onerous taxation. This reeks of how the Federal Government controls the social and economic direction

of the country through the tax code. I am sorry to hear that you have decided to follow that poor example, and take a position from "on high" that you know what is best. Combine this with your support of the absurd Dunleavy proposal and it is clear that you have lost your compass.

Thank you for your time,  
MARK INGRAM

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**From:** Bob Kirn [<mailto:kirn@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:14 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** \$75 Studded Tire Proposal and Other Budget Fixing Ideas

Senator Giessel,

As a constituent who has voted for you twice, I am very disappointed in your proposal to increase studded tire fees to \$75 per tire and feel it necessary to voice my opinion. While you see this as a revenue generating "user fee" for those who might be diminishing the lifespan of our roads (an inconclusive assumption), this is a foolish proposal in many ways. It will disproportionately affect those who struggle economically and cannot afford 4 wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles. As a parent of teenage drivers, I see studded tires as an extra form of insurance to keep my kids and everyone else, including you, safe on the roads. To think that many people will forego extra safety measures because of the excessive cost to buy studded tires is a public safety nightmare. Any reasonable person can predict that accidents and injuries will increase. If you are assuming people will magically become more careful drivers, you are dead wrong. If that were true, we wouldn't have dozens of ditch divers every time it snows. The small amount of revenue generated will be a fraction of the extra costs incurred in auto damage repair costs, insurance premiums and health care costs generated from additional injuries.

While I appreciate that Alaska is facing difficult choices in these challenging financial times, this is the wrong approach to solving the budget crisis. Let's call it what it is – a tax increase for those on the road system.

Sincerely,

ROBERT KIRN

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**From:** [beth@bethsvalleyviews.com](mailto:beth@bethsvalleyviews.com) [<mailto:beth@bethsvalleyviews.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:25 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sen. Shelley Hughes <[Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <[Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Get Out of Our Pockets and into Government's

Senator Giessel,

Your husband knows, as do all long-term DOT employees, that a study was done in the 90's that proved with higher quality gravel and deeper road beds the roadways would last much longer. Additionally, it is not the studded tires that truly cause the damage, it is the weight on the too-shallow, low-quality gravel, rubber-asphalt design-built of our roadways. Get a grip and go after the true cause and don't come to us to pay for it.

Right now we have \$13+ billion in reserves. With a \$2+ billion shortfall this year, which potentially on-going, and reserves that statutorily increase every year. We could probably hold on for at least 10 years in this manner. By the end of 5 or 6 years the International Energy Association anticipates oil being around \$80/barrel, which would allow our earnings to regrow as we would not need to deep into them to maintain the current budget.

Both chambers of the legislature now we have about \$1,200 in income taxes, 10% in capital gains taxes, increased motor fuel taxes, \$75/tire on swap-out (not just purchase) for studded tires, increased fishing fees, increased snow machine fees, etc., etc., etc. The ones I have numbers for lead me to believe that each individual (who pays taxes) would be paying the government about \$3,000 per year. It is my understanding that only about 60% of us pay income taxes. So, about 292,000 (less children and 60% adults) will pay about \$876 million to government. Another tiny drop in our over-bloated budget.

Get back to work and reduce the budget by \$1.1 billion and THEN maybe we'll be able to let you have more money to waste. After all, you don't seem to realize that we are in a recession and according to responsible and respected economists, as well as ISER last spring, say the absolutely worst thing you can do in a recession is take money out of the private sector.

Beth Fread

Associate Broker

907-354-7759

[Beth@BethsValleyViews.com](mailto:Beth@BethsValleyViews.com)

Lee Realty, LLC

550 E Dunbar Dr., Suite F

Wasilla, AK 99654

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**From:** jlbuskirk [<mailto:jlbuskirk@mtaonline.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:53 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** jlbuskirk <[jlbuskirk@mtaonline.net](mailto:jlbuskirk@mtaonline.net)>  
**Subject:** SB 50

I am writing to you to express my displeasure at SB 50. Not everyone lives in Anchorage. We have lived in Talkeetna since the mid-seventies and we have always used studded snow tires. I do not feel like it is your place to heavily tax people who live in a very snowy / icy area. Also, this will result in many more accidents and the end result will be a far greater cost of lives. For anyone who has ever driven icy roads and had to brake suddenly (for example for a moose), there's no doubt that studded tires work. This bill is just a dumb idea. Sincerely, Jane and Larry Buskirk

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

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**From:** Wiley\_Lisa [[mailto:Wiley\\_Lisa@asdk12.org](mailto:Wiley_Lisa@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:19 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** no stud tax

To Senator Giessel,

While I appreciate your efforts to create sources of new funding, I urge you not to pass your Stud Tax bill. This would hit everyday Alaskans who are trying to be safe in the pocketbook. That is the last population you should be targeting.

I encourage you, instead, to find create ways to tax the oil industry.

Please do not respond with your logic about why you created this bill. I have read that information. Just please note that this is not a popular decision for every day Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wiley

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**From:** [skconn@mtaonline.net](mailto:skconn@mtaonline.net) [<mailto:skconn@mtaonline.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shelley Hughes <[hughesalaska@inbox.com](mailto:hughesalaska@inbox.com)>  
**Subject:** SB50

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am very upset that you have sponsored a huge tax on Alaskans. \$75 a tire is a huge blow to people's budgets, especially when the Governor and your House colleagues are looking to continue to cut the Permanent Fund Dividend, triple the gas tax, and institute an income tax. All of these will place more and more burdens on working Alaskans and push us into a full blow recession.

The true reason that our roads have ruts and are falling apart is that those who get the contracts use cheap materials that do not last. We keep throwing money away on bandaids, instead of fixing the real problem. Maybe the state should look at other bidders who will do the job right, and then make sure that they do. That would definitely serve the state, but instead the contracts are awarded to the same companies year after year; who must laugh all the way to the bank.

You know that all money brought in must go to the General Fund first, before it can be distributed out. Once those funds get absorbed into the General Fund they rarely, if ever, go to the programs that they were supposedly collected for. We have seen examples of this with the tobacco and alcohol taxes.

You were sent to Juneau to fix the budget, not put new taxes on the residents of our state. People are furious over this bill back home; I should know since I am the District 11 Chair and Secretary of Valley Republican Women. You can make things right by withdrawing this bill and fight the proposed taxes and restructuring of the Permanent Fund coming our way. If you don't, then you are siding with the Democrats and are telling us that you support bloated governments and wasteful spending. That is not in keeping with the Republican Platform.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Connelly  
District 11  
907-354-1856

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**From:** Les Notestine [<mailto:alaska.notes@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB 50 - Studded Tire Tax

I would urge you not to vote for your bill. My husband and I are retired. We can't afford all of the proposed taxes. A tire tax is not what is needed to fix the roads. Alaska didn't have this problem in the 1980's. The reason the roads have ruts is because the ASPHALT PLANT changed the formula for asphalt that is placed on Alaskan roads. They changed the size aggregate from a small aggregate to a U. S. quarter sized aggregate. Maybe they should go back to the smaller aggregate and the roads wouldn't need to be replaced or repaired as often.

Last year, portions of the Seward Highway were overlaid between O'Malley Rd. and Tudor Rd. The project was barely completed and the new pavement was already stripping and rutting. I have never seen such bad work or possibly another new pavement formula. Maybe you should investigate if the formula changed in any way.

I do not know exactly where you live, but I have had experience with the non-studded tires. I worked for the Municipality of Anchorage and was a project inspector. The city made a new policy for no studded tires. I had to follow a route on the hillside roads for the Goldenview School sewer line. I was driving a suburban-type vehicle. While driving the hillside road to the project site during the spring melt, the vehicle would not climb the icy road. I was about half way when the car decided to slide down backwards. Miraculously, no vehicles were traveling at the intersection below, where the "T" dropped off about 12 feet. I managed to turn the car just enough to end up at the bottom of someone's driveway instead of dropping off the embankment. The vehicle was filled with surveying equipment including the oversized nails used for survey marking. If I had overturned or hit the garage door, all of those markers would probably be impaled into my body. After that, the city allowed vehicles that had to drive on the hillside to have studded tires, alleviating the slipping problem.

The new snow tires are great on snow, but not on ice. We live in ALASKA! We need to drive on ice during the spring melt especially. An annual fee of \$300 to me that is to fix roads that could be fixed with the State asphalt plant formula isn't right. I urge you to further investigate the 1980 formula change. At that time, there was a gravel shortage, and I assume that might still be the case, but the roads can be constructed better.

Look for ways to cut spending vs. more tax. Since our population is shrinking, maybe we don't need as many legislators or aids. There should be NO pay raises. Consider better benefits and bonuses vs. any pay increase. Benefits do not add to future retirement plan dollars. What is costing government so much is the technology hardware, software, training and turnover. Soon to be replaced by robots that will no longer innovate. You can't stop progress, but maybe something can be added to purchase agreements for computers to last more than 2 years before they are obsolete or that will be replaced at no cost to the government. One magnetic pulse will show just how useless all the technology can be.

Government's original purpose was to keep records. You might find out how worthless government is when there is no longer a hard copy of documents. You can't tax or assess property if you don't know who owns it. How will you access records if it is just a blip on a computer screen and the power goes down for a long period with no way to access backup electronic records?

...just things to think about. Don't tax snow tires.

Thanks you for reading,  
Sandy Notestine

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**From:** Harold Johnsen [<mailto:johnsenharold@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed new tax on studded tires

In visiting with several engineers, I urge you to get more information about what is causing the Glenn Highway, and others, to develop "grooves." Studded tires may "shred" blacktop at stop signs when the drivers spin their wheels on ice, etc. but there is no way that would account for the grooves in the Glenn. I have been told that the grooves result from compression of the blacktop, particularly on long hot sunshine filled days. Some compression from cars and more from trucks, particularly heavy trucks headed for the North slope. The compression is minimized if the aggregate used in the blacktop mix is of different sizes rather than all uniform. Uniform aggregate tends to stack and does not maintain the distance between each piece of aggregate needed to avoid compression. I am not an engineer, but we have a whole department of transportation full of them. Please contact them or others before pursuing a tax that won't result in the ultimate goal you are trying to achieve - better roads. Thanks for your service, we are facing the need for a lot more revenue but this source may be ill-advised. HaJ

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**From:** Ted Jones [<mailto:totall01@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire tax

I have used studded tires for many years and unless they are outlawed I will continue to use them. I feel as you do, the safety of my family and grandkids. I travel more than the 13 miles between eagle river and anchorage. The 12% of the vehicles running studs should not bear the cost to fix roads. How many of these vehicles keep their studs on thru the summer. This should be enforced and fined as the law states. I don't think an increase \$70 a tire is affordable to the average Alaskan. So they will be using unsafe tires and causing accidents or unsafe conditions for other drivers. Any section of road has to be resurfaced over a period of time. Maybe a different method and quality of asphalt would make the road last longer. Don't penalize the few that make a choice to use studded tires for the safety of their family. Thank you,  
Ted Jones  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Renne Champagne [<mailto:renne@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire tax

Your studded tire tax increase is ridiculous and unfair. I understand Alaska needs more money but I don't see any of you in office or government jobs taking ANY income cuts and you already got the PFD. I'm seriously considering moving to lower 48 and so is my family (which is over 15 persons).

Renne Champagne  
Home: 907 357-0103  
CeLL: 907 357-0102  
Fax: 907 631-4253

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**From:** BOB LOPETRONE [<mailto:boblopetrone@gci.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:54 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <[Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Studded tires/ State workers

Senators: After hearing the proposal of \$75 per studded tire I must voice my opinion against the issue. I have done research into the stud less tires that Senator Geisel mentioned and in fact own some of those same tires. They do in fact work very well on small light weight vehicles, but here is where the problem is, they do not work nearly as well on light truck applications because of the load rating, to obtain the required load rating the manufacture must stiffen the side wall making them much less flexible and in doing so they do not work nearly as well as on the smaller vehicles. Also we know that Alaska is truck country. I have owned and operated a snow removal business for 27 years now from upper hillside and all over the Anchorage bowl, I cannot imagine going the places we do in the conditions that we do without studded tires and sometimes we still need chains to get through. Please reconsider this proposal!

The next problem I would like to address is I know several men who work for the state along the state hi ways. It was made known to me that it came down from above to the workers to do 30% less We will show them to cut our budget! It is a well known fact that most of these crews run at around 50% of what the private sector does so where does this leave us? Hmmm

Respectfully Bob Lopetrone

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**From:** copping\_janet [[mailto:copping\\_janet@asdk12.org](mailto:copping_janet@asdk12.org)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:30 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Tax on studded tires

You are creating an enormous tax on something that keeps Alaskans safe on icy, winter roads. The grooves in the roads are from thousands of cars and trucks driving in the same path, not solely from studded tires. And how will you tax second-hand studded tires? Will you collect tax every winter or just once?

Are you a democrat? They love taxing people and creating more boondoggle for the public to wade through. Sounds like you.

Please retract your unfair tax and come up with something we can all use... like less spending by our Legislature. Work within your budget, no more taxes!

Janet Copping

[copping@alaskan.com](mailto:copping@alaskan.com)

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**From:** [gvhunt@gci.net](mailto:gvhunt@gci.net) [<mailto:gvhunt@gci.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:19 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded Tires account for 1/3 of rut creation

Allegedly, only 1/3 of road ruts can be blamed on studded tires according to a study I recall being in one of the Anchorage newspapers about 20-years ago. If I remember correctly, the majority of the study was done on O'Malley Road. Ruts were observed for different axel widths – everything from Subaru to gravel hauling truck/pup combinations. The conclusion (if I remember correctly) was that ruts were based on three things: heavy vehicles such as the gravel hauling truck/pup combinations, soft asphalt mixture using small gravel/sand composition, and studded tires .

Consequently, I don't feel it fair to put the full blame on studded tires.

Sincerely,

Gaye Hunt – Residence: 12500 Ridgewood Road – mail: POB 111897 – Anchorage, AK 99511-1897 345-5527

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From: Cynthia Helmericks [<mailto:akh2ogeek@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:08 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Studded Tire Tax

Hello Senator Giessel,

I wanted to write to you as someone who lives in your district. I live in Indian and commute on a near daily basis on the Seward Highway. Because I live on such a treacherous road, I find it somewhat comforting to know that people take their safety and mine seriously by making sure that their vehicles are in proper working order, but also try to do all that they can to be safe on the road during the winter months. This includes the use of studded tires. With your introduction of SB 50 I am concerned about what might happen with it's passage. First, not all families make enough income to afford expensive winter alternative tires such as blizzaks. Second, you would be effectively pricing the tires out of the range of many families. This would in turn effect everyone's safety on winter roads, including your own. Based on your interview with Alaska Dispatch I really don't think that you have thought about the possible consequences of creating such a steep tax. Secondly, I believe that you haven't really looked into how much damage a studded tire on a passenger car does compared to semi-trucks with regular tires (which aren't taxed for the damage they do). If you did, then you would know that semi-trucks create 400 times the damage to roads that an average passenger car does.

I understand that the state is in a financial crisis and that new avenues have to be created for income to work on roads and other infrastructure projects. However, compromising safety because you haven't considered all the facts is not the way to go about it.

I hope that you take another look at how the roads are being damaged in our state and how to effectively fix the roads without compromising safety.

Thanks for your time, Cynthia Helmericks

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**From:** Debbie D. [<mailto:flythesky@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded Tire Tax

Hello,

I would like to express my dismay at the bill that would raise the tax on studded tires to \$75 each. That is an astronomical jump. I am hoping it does not pass. I would like to suggest an alternative: Raise the tax to \$20 per tire and change the dates for running the tires to 2 weeks later in fall for putting them on and two weeks earlier in the spring for having to take them off. The roads have more of a chance of being bare of snow and ice during those weeks. Also, it takes a month off of the studded tire season and therefore protects roads more. Thank you for your consideration of this alternative.

Debbie Dorsey

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**From:** Mitchell Glover [<mailto:maglover@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:25 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** tires

Dear Senator Giessel,

I agree with your attempt to decrease wear and tear on our highways caused by studded tires.

However, to increase the fee for usage is to punish those who adhere to the laws of when the tires are allowed. It may be more helpful to monitor and enforce the law of removing studded tires in the spring.

I have noticed many vehicles with studded tires during the summer when the tires should have been changed. The fines collected by citing those drivers who don't follow the timeframe can help supplement the cost of repairs on the roads.

Traffic stops may not reach many offenders. Observing vehicle tires at large venues and events may reach a larger number. At any rate, I think enforcing the law already in place is a good place to start.

Mitch Glover

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**From:** Jean Musser [<mailto:musserjm@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tires

Dear Senator Giessel,

While I do appreciate that you want to make our roads safer, I disagree with you wanting to raise the fee for studded snow tires. Have you driven on a regular basis in Anchorage lately? It is lawless. People do not abide with the speed limits and rules of the road because they know there are no police to enforce the law. This is causing accidents especially with snowy and icy conditions. Many times it is causing those that are abiding the law to be in crashes due those breaking the law.

By increasing the fee for studded snow tires, you are again burdening the citizens who care about safety, and are most likely abiding to the laws, paying taxes, and voting.

Why not have a fee for every driver in the road regions they drive? Why not have a toll fee for those entering Alaska?

Why must you burden the families that want to drive safely? There is a better solution to this problem.

While I'm talking about this issue, I would also like to know why Anchorage hasn't saved it's snow plowing tax dollars for a "snowy day" since it really hasn't snowed for the past 3 years. I know this is a question for the muni, but I think it is also a question for you. Those snowless winters had less road maintenance and more wear & tear on roads from studs. Couldn't some of those funds be used? What happened to that money? And what happened to all the tax money we've paid for police and have gone without any enforcement on our roads? Our dear mayor doesn't seem to think we need either. So goes the integrity of our community.

I have voted for your every election and appreciate all you have given in time and effort. I hope you can come up with a better solution than to burden the citizens who are trying to make our community one of wellness, safety, support, and a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Jean Musser

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Jen Hardy [<mailto:ohardy@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:30 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Senate Bill 50

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the studded tire tax. While I agree the Glenn Hwy is heavily rutted and can be dangerous (my husband commutes from Anchorage to Chugiak everyday) I feel like the jump from \$5 to \$75 is to high. Maybe start at \$25 per tire? I think it's a great idea but it would also be such a financial burden and it seems people would just skip the tires and that seems to just make matters worse.

Thanks,

Jen Hardy

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [inmans@alaska.net](mailto:inmans@alaska.net) [<mailto:inmans@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB50

Good Morning:

I am opposed to your bill regarding studded tires. I was born and raised in Alaska (Kenai Peninsula) drove 26 miles to work each way. Until my retirement I had studded tires every winter. They were and still are a necessity. During this time in my life, working raising a family I could not have afforded the additional cost of a tax on studded tires, but would have been one of the ones who desperately needed them. Often the working people are on the roads before the snow plows and sand trucks are. The safety of those people is very important. There are several things that damage the roads in Alaska I don't believe that studded tires are the biggest contributor.

I feel the State of Alaska needs to live within its budget. Not try and find ways to screw its citizens and continually grow. Some non essential programs will need to be cut, there are several.

It wouldn't matter if the tax was \$300.00 or \$10,000.00 the people who need them couldn't afford them, and the state would no doubt blow any monies it collected on something non essential anyway.

Sincerely,

David & Carol Inman

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**From:** Shawn Aspelund [<mailto:saspelund@BBNC.NET>]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 8:23 AM

**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer <[Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** No to Giessel's Tire Tax

Senator,

I agree we need our URBAN road surfaces to last longer. Before we tax the &#\$% out of everyone maybe we can understand what is causing the ruts.

I personally use stud-less tires. But at a cost of 4X the cost of studded. How many people in rural Alaska can afford that? How about the rest of urban. Many do not have extra cash- they will use their summer tires which will lead to loss of life and property.

Please pull Cathy away from the edge!!!

Thanks- tough year I know. Be encouraged. Once the oil is gone (not possible), PF is gone (not likely) with those who are in AK for both, we will restart this state and create a sustainable economy. Whatever you guys do to keep either is just a bonus. You can't go wrong....

Shawn Aspelund,

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**From:** Cindy Butherus [<mailto:Butherus@cvea.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** Jane Conway <[Jane.Conway@akleg.gov](mailto:Jane.Conway@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded Tire

I am incensed over Senator Giessel's proposal of \$200 fee on a set of studded tires. How dare you? Like those of us that use studded tires for maximum safety in Alaska winters are the only ones destroying the roads. Do you understand the freezing and thawing that our roads go through in Alaska? Do you understand when you see the deep ruts in the Glenn Highway that is not caused by studs but by the weight of traffic especially the trucks. So you are proposing to make a small portion of the people on the road pay for all the repairs? You should be ashamed of yourself. That amount of fee will force people not to be able to afford studs. For those of us that live in areas/terrain that need studs in the winter there will be more accidents and injuries and their blood will be on your hands! SHAME ON YOU!! Shame on you to target a small group to pay for damage that EVERYBODY is responsible for.

Cindy Butherus  
P.O. Box 3632  
Valdez, AK 99686  
(907)835-7018  
[butherus@cvea.org](mailto:butherus@cvea.org)

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**From:** Marc and Cathy Bond [<mailto:mcbond007@live.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Tax on Studded Tires

Dear Senator Giessel: I write to oppose your proposed tax on studded tires.

First, we need to study how many accidents are prevented and lives are saved each year by the added safety of studded tires? Do you know those numbers? Are you prepared to accept responsibility for additional fatalities and non-fatal crashes?

Second, it is my understanding that much of the rutting is due to heavier trucks passing over unstable substrate. Do you have the information and data on the causes of the ruts?

Third, the Alaska Constitution prohibits dedication of tax revenues. Article IX, Section 7 provides: "Section 7. Dedicated Funds The proceeds of any state tax or license shall not be dedicated to any special purpose, except as provided in Section 15 of this article or when required by the federal government for state participation in federal programs." The revenues from this new tax will simply go into the general fund.

I urge you to get all the facts before proceeding with this bill.

Sincerely,  
Marc Bond  
14720 Park Hills Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99516

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From: Florence Norwood [<mailto:florencenorwood@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:26 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Tire tax

Please do not make it harder to be safe on Alaska roads. People who cannot afford an extra \$200 on top of the price of studded tires will drive on unsafe tires. Those of us who live in Girdwood need studded tires. We already have to pay more for police protection. We count on you to make decisions that benefit the people of our community. Thank you , Florence Norwood

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From: Golden Rod [[mailto:goldyn\\_rod@hotmail.com](mailto:goldyn_rod@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:35 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Studded tires - no tax hike

Senator Giessel,

Road damage is not caused by tires, but by compression from heavy vehicles on a sub par surface.

Studs provide an extra level of safety for driver and others on the road.

Taxes you are proposing are extreme and unaffordable for many folks. Especially when we anticipate layers and layers of taxes and our PFD erased with no promise of reducing the size of a government we do not want nor can afford.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [ecombs1@gci.net](mailto:ecombs1@gci.net) [<mailto:ecombs1@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50 - Studded Tires

Dear Senator Giessel:

We absolutely oppose the proposed Senate Bill 50 to increase the tax on studded tires up to \$300 for 4 studded tires per vehicle. In our household on Hillside we have 4 SUV/trucks and this would cost us \$1,200 per year taxes just on studded tires!

We understand the State budget deficit. We actually prefer the Legislators reinstate a State Income Tax instead of nickel and diming us to death with new or increased taxes on our goods and consumables. We on Hillside are already over-burdened with property taxes and believe we are being targeted with increased property taxes every year to carry the rest of Anchorage's population who do not pay property taxes for their goods and services. This is not a State Legislative concern it is a local issue but we are painting a picture of what increased taxes on essentials such as vehicle studded tires looks like. We are also Seniors who live on a fixed income and this kind of taxation in SB50 would hit us in the pocketbook as well as others on a fixed income.

Of concern to us is how Senate Bill 50 will affect the tire sales business owners. As a Republican Senator, for whom we voted, you should be supporting our businesses not trying to undercut their sales.

Finally of great concern to us, we believe it is absolutely critical that the State have a Balanced Budget particularly in our crisis deficit situation or even without a crisis situation—we should always have a balanced budget. Lack of it has caused our present situation notwithstanding the oil revenues reduction which should have been factored in years ago through a balanced budget.

Thank you for your time and keep us posted.

Allen and Esther Combs  
11001 Snowline Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507

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**From:** J.S. Collins [<mailto:jshanecollins@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:54 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>; Shane <[jshanecollins@gmail.com](mailto:jshanecollins@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** The tire issue

Senator Giessel,

I can imagine being a state senator at a time when there are huge budget deficits is difficult and tenuous at best. It is a tough job that you are in for. I am hopeful that you and the Alaska Legislature can solve these difficult problems to ensure the long term sustainability of Alaska for future generations.

Why I am writing as you can imagine from the subject line is your proposed \$75 per tire tax on studded tires. My first question would be where did you come up with the \$75.00? Currently at \$5.00. This price would put the safest tires on the road out of reach for many as it would increase the cost by over \$300.00 for a set of 4 tires.

The other question is I do not follow your logic regarding "ruts in the road". I would argue that the materials being used during road construction and methods are of such poor quality and standard that they are doomed to fail. I have watch a few roads being repaired or constructed in my time. I have to say that what happens here in Alaska is not what I would consider a high standard. Given the conditions here are some of the toughest in the nation. Permafrost. Constant freeze thaw. I would imagine some of the toughest standards would be in place when it comes to these infrastructure needs. With this being said I would

argue that studded tires do not cause ruts in the roads any more than a semi truck driving up Rabbit creek does. When an over loaded truck (or any heavy truck) drives on a road not engineered for the surface it will indeed cause ruts.

I have two cars. One with studded tires. One without. There is NO question that the vehicle with studded tires drives much safer and stops quicker than the one without. I have to really think ahead when I am driving the vehicle sans studs. Tire dealers will gladly advertise the benefits of both studded and studies tires. Both work fine but the studded tires are the best option for every driving condition in Alaska. If you pass this legislation I will gladly join you at the bottom of Rabbit Creek or Clark Road and watch the ensuing accidents.

How about "actually" enforcing the current law when people put their studded tires on and off? Isn't this a \$75 fine using studs in the summer season? As a cyclist commuter most of the summer, I hear the familiar sound of studs every single day I commute to work. This would be \$75.00 each occurrence. This could generate some your needed tax revenue and prevent the supposed damage these studded tires cause the roads. If you "chose" to leave your studs on then you pay the price. With a stud tax you don't have a choice.

Why stop with a stud tax? If you want to generate revenue through taxes, just charge \$75.00 for every tire sold here in Alaska. Make it \$150 for vehicle over a 6,500 pounds to include Semi trucks and buses. I could get behind this. Again everyone is vested.

I am hopeful that the Alaskas Legislature will come to a solution to solve the budget crisis. As I read the news I am constantly reminded of several history lessons that I have learned over the years. Remember this. You cannot tax your way out of a crisis. Be it a studded tire tax, state income tax, sales tax....historically these just do NOT work.

Just "tired" in Alaska,  
Shane Collins

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**From:** Mike Roberson [<mailto:mikeroberon63@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 6:31 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Studded Tires

Instead of charging \$75 per tire, how about enforcing the law that already exists, making it an offense by driving studded tires in the summer, except punishable by \$500 per tire. Why are the middle class always targeted when trying to cure a social ill. I say that because most of the cars that drive around in the summer with studded tires, are junk. The damage from the studded tires are a result of driving on a clean road. I'm not an analyst or scientist, but I know what friction does. There is nothing wrong with studded tires in the winter with SNOW and ICE. Penalize those who are responsible for the damage to the roads. I suggested to the Anchorage Mayor's office that parking enforcement be granted the permission to tag violators if they have studded tires unlawfully.

Think about it.

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**From:** Karen Lederhos [<mailto:klederhos@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2017 10:29 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Tires

Please don't tax studded tires! I need on my little car. Tried techie no studs, went back to sure grip of studs. By the way, can we stay on AK Standard Time. Daylight Savings Time is ridiculous and way old fashioned!!!

Sent from my iPhone, Karen Avila-Lederhos

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**From:** Peter Aftreth [<mailto:paftrath@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2017 11:22 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** NO on STUDED TIRE FEE

Please KNOW WE HILLSIDE RESIDENTS VOTE NO on ANY STUDED TIRE TAX.....much less and INCREASE of \$70.00 (SEVENTY DOLLARS).....YOU CANNOT BALANCE the STATE BUDGET ON STUDED TIRE TAX>>>>>>

I/WE Have been VOTERS IN ALASKA/ANCHORAGE since 1970.....Living on the HILLSIDE since 1975....My wife BECKY rolled a 4 wheel drive vehicle with ALL SEASON tires on our first snow of the winter....Our CHILDREN were in the CAR going to school....BECKY Chained UP TWICE a DAY going to work as a SCHOOL NURSE after that TRAMA...

At \$300.00 TAX for a set of 4 tires.....HOW MANY MORE STOLEN WHEELS and TIRES will YOUR CRAZY TAX CAUSE? LIVES SAVED are MORE IMPORTANT Than a little more road ware.....

HEAVY COMMERCIAL TRUCK CAUSE EXCESS RUTTING....POOR ASPHALT MATERIALS also increase RUTTING...

MINNESOTA has NEVER ALLOWED STUDED TIRES.....THEY Have WORSE RUTTING than we have here in Anchorage with studded Tires for THOSE who elect to drive them.....IT is an OPTION we will SELECT.....and we will GET AROUND ANY CRAZY TAX YOU TRY to FORCE ON TIRE SHOPS...ARE YOU GOING TO TAX CHAINS ALSO?... DO You KNOW MANY .....MANY HILLSIDE VOTERS LIKE TO Have STUDED TIRES for SAFETY OF FAMILIES?

PLEASE RETHINK THIS CRAZY TAX.....Peter and Becky Aftreth and family of EIGHT DRIVERS...and SEVEN Grandchildren....

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**From:** Ace Worley [<mailto:dotguy47@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2017 11:03 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Studded Tire Tax

Senator Giessel,

I understand you have proposed legislation that will impose a tax on the purchase of studded tires.

Based on my experience driving in Alaska for 40 years on studded and un-studded tires I believe studded tires offer a substantial safety benefit to all drivers during the winter months.

Your legislation will make it less likely that a driver purchasing winter tires will choose the safer alternative, worsening a difficult driving condition.

The increase pavement maintenance costs associated with the use of studded tires are a small cost compared to the increased safety benefits to all drivers.

I ask that you reconsider your support for this issue and withdraw this ill-advise legislation.

Thank you,  
Ace Worley  
[dotguy47@yahoo.com](mailto:dotguy47@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Jane Giraldo [<mailto:jpgiraldo@alaska.edu>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2017 8:48 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 50: Tire tax

Dear Representative Giessel,  
I read with concern your proposal to raise the tax on studded tires from \$5 to \$75.

Doubtless you have a good motive--protecting our highways and our safety. But you seem to suffer a disconnect with the working class and poor people of Anchorage. For you, the cost of Blizzaks is reasonable; for many people, it's prohibitively expensive.

There are already many people who drive on unsafe tires because they can't afford better ones. Raising taxes so drastically would create hardship for them.

I urge you to look at this issue again. Consider what SB 50 would mean for tire sellers and for people who barely have enough money to survive on. Consider how greatly the tax would hurt some Alaskans and how little it would help defray road maintenance costs.

If you still think a tax is warranted, why not raise it 300% instead of 1500%? That just seems unreasonable.

What I foresee is that poor people won't buy good winter tires. That hurts the tire businesses but, much more importantly, creates dangerous driving conditions, not only for the people who can't afford taxes or Blizzaks, but also for the people they slide into. It could be you with your grandchildren!

Sincerely,  
Jane Giraldo

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**From:** Yarger [<mailto:yarger1@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2017 6:07 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB50

Senator Giessel,

I am writing in opposition to your position and sponsorship of SB50. Reading your quote from the ADN, I was surprised to hear your belief that studded tires cause deep ruts in our highways/roads. Were you misquoted or do you not understand what is actually causing this damage?

There are DOT scales between Anchorage and Eagle River. When are they open? I have lived here over 8 years and have yet to see them operational. Are there any other scales that could be used to enforce commercial weight limits? Are the current weight limits reasonable considering the condition of our roads? Are there any mobile scales that check weights of commercial vehicles? If you haven't figured it out yet, the ruts you refer to on the Glenn Highway (and all other highways) are caused by commercial trucks, most of which are overloaded by 20,000-50,000 pounds. Attached is a study from Ohio State that clearly explains road damage and its causes.

Alaska's DOT oversight during the construction of these roads is clearly insufficient. I have personally witnessed large round rocks used as fill in the construction phase in the highway just outside Wasilla, northbound. Round rocks do not compact. Longevity of any road is dependent on its foundation. That foundation needs to be the correct material and compacted or it will fail.

I do agree that some surface damage to asphalt is caused by tire studs. There is more to the damage than just studded tires. Magnesium/Calcium Chloride are commonly used on icy roads to melt the ice. Chloride based deicers, acetate based deicers affect asphalt pavement. The damage comes about through the combination of chemical reactions, emulsifications, and distillations, as well as generation of additional stress inside the asphalt. Reference the black tar stuck to your car every spring. We commonly see fresh asphalt each summer. Why is it not chip sealed? Would you leave your new asphalt driveway without a seal coat? Most would suggest sealing it to preserve it. Many states will apply chip seal to preserve the asphalt, why is this not done in the state of Alaska?

The last point I will leave you with is safety. Studded tires provide an extra level of safety on our icy roads. This winter is the perfect example. Travel on the hillside would be treacherous without studded tires. Maybe not as bad with timely snow removal, but most families can't wait for days to get to work. Local governments are holding citizens hostage with purposeful neglect in clearing the roads and streets. The future revenue generation intent of this inaction is obvious. I wonder how much overtime was paid last year in an effort to spend budgeted dollars at the state and city level? The "use it or lose it" monetary policy is killing efficiency.

Consider some meaningful thought to the states budget and fiscal challenges. SB50 is misguided at best, ignoring the root causes of our poorly constructed, maintained and managed roads.

Denim Yarger  
Anchorage, AK

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**From:** Margie C [<mailto:margiec@ak.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:47 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Studded Tire Tax

Dear Senator Giessel,

I understand that we are in need of raising additional funds to bring our budget afloat, but I am strongly OPPOSED to a studded tire tax.

These are my reasons why:

Not everyone in Alaska drives the monster trucks. I do not.

I also believe, it's not just studded tires. When you drive down the road, do you go in the same tracks that are already created? I try to avoid the path for as long as I am able, to distribute wear on our roads.

Last year I ran all season tires on my Saturn and was unable to even get onto Tudor Road with maybe a 20% incline. I would get part way into the road, then just remain there as the traffic got closer and closer, and fear absorbed me. It was total unsafe, and waiting until their was no traffic to amble onto Tudor, is truly not an option when trying to go to work.

I also was unable to stop in a Safeway parking lot going less than 2 miles per hour and bumped into someone in front of me on the sheer ice. There was no grip.

Or have you ever had to keep rolling at the slightest m.p.h. just so the above doesn't happen? I have with all season tires.

And the cost of \$300 tax, would not generate the dollars you're thinking, mainly because they would be unaffordable for most that don't have those monster trucks. So maybe you feel that's a win as there's less studs on the road, but what I see is totally different. I see more slipping and sliding through intersections, running into the car or truck in front of you as you are unable to stop. I see more crashes with less control of the vehicle. Have you ever sat spinning at an intersection through 3 lights without being able to move? I have, and I did last year with my all season tires.

I just don't think it's a good idea to put our lives at risk by taxing studded tires out of existence. Please stop this bill.

PLEASE SAY NO TO \$300 TAX ON STUDED TIRES

Thank you,

Marjorie Crain

6018 E. 43rd Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99504

[margiec@ak.net](mailto:margiec@ak.net)

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From: Jim Wojciehowski [<mailto:wojo@ptialaska.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:03 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

Subject: SB50 - Studded tires

Dear Senator Giessel,

I have voted for you since you first ran. I do wish to express that I think the studded tire TAX is a bad idea even though I use Blizzak studless tires. Too many vehicles in the Anchorage bowl already are poor equipped with tires not designed for winter driving such as all terrain tires. I've seen front wheel drive cars stuck at flat intersections in icy conditions. Obviously these same vehicle can sliding into another car or even a pedestrian.

Making someone pay \$300 additional for studded tires will simply deter many from buying better winter tires.

SB50 makes no sense and should be opposed.

Jim Wojciehowski

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**From:** KENNETH SCHULZ [<mailto:ken0556674@me.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 8:04 AM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Cc:** Sen. Kevin Meyer <[Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chris Birch <[Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov)>;

Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Studded Tire Tax

Dear Senator Giessel,

While I certainly understand the impact of studded tires on our roads, the fact is they save lives. You will have blood on your hands if you increase the tax at such a steep rate. The increase in cost will increase fatalities in our state. Unfortunately, the people this will affect the most are those who can marginally afford the tires now. For example, young adults just beginning their careers, school teachers, and retirees, to name a few.

I personally experienced this in my life. Patrick Mullen died in a crash on Thompson Pass in 2012. He and his young bride moved to Alaska after he completed a PhD in Anthropology and got his dream job, an Anthropologist for the National Park Service. They could only afford studded tires on one of their cars. Patrick took a beautiful spring afternoon off work to do some backcountry skiing and died while driving his pickup on the pass. That decision to save money and only put studded tires on his wife's car cost him his life. There will be many people making that same decision if you raise the tax on studded tires.

Please keep your tax increase within reason. Don't you have kids or know someone who does?

Sincerely,

Kenneth Schulz  
4721 E 104th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99507





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From: Sharon Trager [<mailto:trager@gci.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:11 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Proposal to tax studded tires

Senator Geisel,

I am a retired educator residing in your district.

Last year , after many years of accident free driving in the Anchorage area ,my husband and I decided to give the winter tires a try. This last week after approaching an intersection and beginning to brake , my car continued to slide past the light before finally coming to a stop.

We decided we are much safer in our area with our variable conditions to have studded tires.

I was much dismayed at your proposal to tax these tires which afford us safety and in addition the exorbitant amount suggested. Once again the middle class takes the hit. This tax on an already limited income is outrageous.

How much funding is used to assist all the accidents occurring with vehicles unequipped to handle ice? A small tax I could understand but your proposal is disturbing.

Sincerely,

Sharon Trager

1611 Early View Drive

Anchorage,99504

Sent from my iPad

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From: Short Family [<mailto:short@mtaonline.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:51 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Studded Tires

Senator Giessel,

I completely disagree with your studded tire tax. You said that it costs a million dollars a mile to fix the roads. So under my estimate let's say 100,000 families can afford and purchase new tires next year and they pay the \$50.00 per tire tax that's a revenue of \$20 million (not counting the staff you'll have to hire to collect and manage these fees). So, you are going to put lives in danger because families may not be able to afford this tax in order to repave 20 miles of highway? This fall we paid \$1,200.00 for a set of Tahoe tires. We paid \$900.00 for a set of studded tires for our 16 year old that just learned to drive. Your tax would have added \$400.00 to our families budget. It already costs a lot to live in Alaska. Why don't we work on fixing the state budget and tap the abundance of resources in Alaska, cut spending in Alaska for unnecessary programs in Alaska before we tax working families that are just trying to keep our families safe. My husband commutes from the Valley 5 days a week year round. Anchorage does a terrible job maintaining their roads because they refuse to put sand on them. Having studs is necessary. Have you ever commuted from the Valley in the dark at 5am during an icy snowstorm?

It sounds like a simple solution but all this for maybe 20 miles? That's not going to fix the problem. We would be happy to take a commuter rail but there isn't one.

Please reconsider your tax and let Alaskans make the choice whether they feel comfortable with the studless tires or studs. I'm going to drive my 4 children around with studs on because it's my job to protect them and where we live we need them.

Lisa Short  
Valley Resident

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From: Paul Wharton [<mailto:paul.k.wharton@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: No on tire studs tax

Your proposed tax on tire studs is misguided and compromises public safety. It's not going to fix budget gap which can only be meaningfully addressed by significantly reducing size of state government and eliminating entitlements. It also improperly shifts risk to public. The state roads and proper maintenance are to serve the public. Your proposal would elevate DOT maintenance concerns above public safety. Your tax would negatively affect safety of all drivers not just those that choose not to purchase studs. For example let's say I choose safety and bought studs and another driver chose economy and didn't buy

studs. The other driver may hit me and cause me injury and property damage because they are not able to avoid collision on icy roads. So your proposal is no good. You should withdraw this ill conceived proposal.

Regards,

Paul Wharton  
Gird wood, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Donna Maupin [<mailto:maupin@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 4:46 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Stud tax

Stop it. Why don't you do your job and focus on the budget and getting more oil in the pipe and drop this stupid stud tire tax bill. Here are my issue

- If you tax this much no one will buy them and there goes any extra tax revenue. Actually you will loose any tax you are collecting now.
- It is not clear if studded tires are the real problem. You also have soft road material and overweight commercial trucks.
- You will also have a safety issue. I don't care what your experts say, studded tires get better traction then non studded tires.
- You % of studded tires purchased are misleading. You counted all tires purchased to include summer tires. I hate it when you politicians try to mislead us.

So just stop it and work on the budget.

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**From:** Betsy Nobmann [<mailto:bnobmann@customcpu.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Studded tire tax

Dear Senator Giessel,

I oppose the bill to tax studded tires for the following reasons.

- It is an unfair burden on drivers using studs, as automobiles without studs and trucks also contribute. There are more of them than studded tire users according to news reports.

- Studded tires are only used half of the year, so again studded tire users would be paying taxes for something they don't contribute to for half the year.
- Some drivers including me feel safer with studded tires.
- I live with a steep driveway and northern exposure for my home contributing to a need for studded tires to get into the garage.
- I own two vehicles, one of which only makes weekly trips to the grocery store two miles away, so I am not on the roads that much but would be paying this tax for each car.
- The bill does not address whether this tax affects new tires only, or if you intended to tax users each fall when they have studded tires mounted. If the latter, again this is a burden even with the reduced amount of \$50/tire.
- A better option if you wish to tax drivers to potentially maintain roads is to put a state tax on gasoline that would be a proxy to tax road users proportionately in relation to the miles they drive.

I am encouraged that you are considering ways to meet the fiscal deficit, but I do not feel that this bill/concept would contribute that much.

Thank you for soliciting input and considering my position.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth D. Nobmann

Constituent and Super voter

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**From:** COLLEEN LEMEN [<mailto:curt.lemen@barrow.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 07, 2017 2:11 PM

**To:** David Scott <[David.Scott@akleg.gov](mailto:David.Scott@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** SB50

Good afternoon Mr. Scott,

I'd like to include my public testimony regarding SB50. I have been a lifelong resident of Alaska, living mostly in the rural community of Barrow.

When I heard that SB 50 was being presented, I was flabbergasted as when I purchase tires for my vehicles, I ALWAYS include studs as we have winter 8 or 9 months out of the year here.

Having studs increases the safety of me and my passengers on our dirt roads as well as the winter slippery surfaces.

This bill is ridiculous and would increase my cost at being safe.

I urge you to do all you can to STOP this bill from passing.

Thank you for your support.

Colleen & Curtis Lemen

PO Box 672

Barrow, AK 99723

(907) 852-3575

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**Timothy J. Lamb - Horrible idea to charge \$75/tire tax: it will lead to loss of life. Many people will forego them who cannot drive well on ice.**

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**From:** Timothy J. Lamb  
**To:** cathy.giessel@akleg.com  
**Date:** 2/14/2017 12:37 PM  
**Subject:** Horrible idea to charge \$75/tire tax: it will lead to loss of life. Many people will forego them who cannot drive well on ice.  
**Cc:** Timothy J. Lamb

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I am an over 50 year resident of Anchorage. I am an attorney.  
I primarily defend physicians, hospitals and sports outfitters (heli-ski operators etc.)  
In the winter I drive to Girdwood on the weekends, and sometimes to Hatcher Pass etc. when I don't drive South.

With Southcentral Alaska's high population turnover, we have an influx every year of people without experience driving on snow/ice. I have tried numerous winter non studded tires, and they do not hold as well on corners, and definitely do not grip as well when stopping.

Many people without a lot of disposable income will not purchase studded tires, if your proposal is accepted and passed.

There was a time when I was in my teens, on my own without much money, and I could not afford studded tires.

I wished I had them. Of course, now I can afford them, and put them on all our cars in the fall.

The auto collision repair shops, auto dealerships, hospitals, physicians, chiropractors, etc. will benefit if the proposed statute is enacted because there will be many more accidents and serious injuries, particularly now that it seems the snow, rain, freeze cycles occur more frequently than they did when I was growing up.

I have been involved in death lawsuits where people slid, crossed the center line and died after a head on crash.

I suspect it was a combination of their poor driving, no studded tires, and who knows what else.

If it saves even a few lives to continue to urge new drivers and people not use to winter driving to use studded tires (a high tax will obviously have the opposite effect) then we should do what we can to get them to use the tires.

While there are good winter snow tires, I know form personal experience, they do not work as well on ice.

I urge you to not continue with sponsoring the bill.

I do not have any financial interest in the issue. If anything, my law firm earns more income when there are crashes and lawsuits are filed, so this opinion is against my overall monetary benefit.

Thank you.

Tim 907-279-3581 (work)



I marked this because I received a "bounce back"

Alexander Strong  
15731 Southpark Loop  
Anchorage, AK 99516-4850

February 18, 2017

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
State Legislative Office Bldg  
1500 West Benson Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing you to urge you to reconsider your bill to apply a \$50 per tire user fee to the purchase of studded snow tires. Instead, I ask that you leave the existing \$5 user fee on the purchase of studded tires as it currently stands, and apply a new user fee to the purchase of all tires, with the new fee ranging from \$10 to \$18 per tire in accordance with the associated vehicle's weight and use. Under this arrangement I believe that more revenue would be generated than under your proposal and the burden of such a program would be more equitably spread across all highway users. I also believe such an arrangement would be less unfavorably received by Alaskans than that which you are currently proposing.

More specifically, the fee arrangement I suggest, which is designed to correspond to vehicle weight, is as follows : 1) \$10 per tire sold for sedans, light SUVs, and small pick-up trucks; 2) \$14 per tire sold for pick-up trucks and vans rated at more than 1/2 ton, and for large SUVs; and 3) \$18 for remaining vehicles which would include motor homes, all trucks and vans rated at over 2 1/2 ton capacity, and all buses and commercial vehicles.

The reason I advocate this approach is that much of the significant vehicular damage our roads incur is a function of the weight of vehicles passing over the roads. The effect of the repetitive compression from the passing vehicles extends deep on into the subsurface structure of the roadbed which, with time, leads to a depression in the road surface and, in turn, requires major expenditures to correct. In contrast, the

the damage studded tires cause is confined to the top surface of the road while positively offset by the instances of additional vehicle control and safety provided by the tire studs.

In regard to studded snow tires, I agree with you that the modern snow tires without studs do perform well in snow and slush. However, it is on ice covered surfaces such as result with the melting and refreezing of snow, or where only a thin layer of ice remains, that studded tires make a real difference. If only a few dozen collisions or other mishaps (with attendant property losses and personal injuries) are prevented each year by not discouraging the use of studded tires, surely the limited damage studded tires do to the road surface is justified. And if the user fee arrangement I suggest were approved, it would undoubtedly bring in more revenue to the state and be less onerous and more easily tolerated by Alaskans than a \$50 user fee per studded tire.

I hope you give my thoughts serious consideration. I, as so many others, stand firmly opposed to your currently proposed studded tire user fee. It seems most unreasonable to force us to bear such an additional expense to achieve the rather basic increased margin of safety on our winter roads that studded snow tires provide.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Strong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexander Strong

MEYER BROTHERS MUFFLER CITY

ALFRED MEYER PRESIDENT

To Whom It May Concern: I oppose bill 50

My father met Bruno Wessel here in anchorage 45 years ago or more. The STUD GUY, He showed him how to carve a piece of wood to make a tire stand and how to drill and stud tires. I have seen pretty much every kind of next generation stud. steel, alloy, plastic case. Ect. We tested all of them. The conclusion was always the same. With the mixture of metals the carbide center would fall out. We still use the steel studs. They last longer. I've also seen every kind of stud less tire walnuts, diamond bits, carbine granules, sunflower oils, silica. Ect. Some of this technology has been around a long time.

You may see a lot of stud less winter tires stacked around town. It makes it seem like this is the greatest technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by the mass exposer alone. I disagree. I've tested most all types of tires both professionally and personally. I have gone back to studded as have many of my customers.

We have been put under a tremendous amount of pressure to push stud less tires by the manufacture especially if they own the distribution center. Here was the reason they gave us.

A normal tire is touched by human hands at its destination 3 times. You check them in, you move it, you stack it. For a studded tire, it must be touched by human hands a minimal of 9 times to end up in the final stack. It takes a tremendous amount of time and manpower to stud tires when done in the thousands to tens of thousands. The tires start coming in early July so that the studding can begin. This increases the amount of capital needed up front. The biggest cost factors are the employees needed. The rest take your pick, cost of the studs, the price of storing the tires until it's time to sell, the gambling on the weather, the rent on storing if you don't sell.

Even after the years of pushing us to sell the stud less tires giving us incentives by lowering prices. I still sell 200 studded to 12 at best stud less in the most popular sizes. The tire company gave up on the push this summer and asked us if we would be interested in selling Michelin's studded tires. We said absolutely.

The question has come up on how to police sales on line and collect taxes. My question who is policing it now. I've never been contacted on what kind of studs I use. How would you know if I'm using steel or alloy? Did you know that you can buy on base and you pay no tire or stud tax?

The process has already begun for consumer direct sales by tire manufactures online. If this was away to generate more funds for the state this is going to backfire.

Generally, when an incentive is given for a cause things seem to end up getting worse. Take California for instance. Incentives were giving if you bought a Prius, hybrid, tesla Ect. Even though environmentally it was the right thing to do. The state did not realize how much money it would lose from the gas tax. They say what is needed to maintain roads. Now their new bill is to change the gas tax to a mileage user-fee. Every state has road maintaining problems.

Another tax incentive was giving to home owners and businesses who converted to solar energy. Again, environmentally the right thing to do, but now they have a (Sun Tax.)

The point is people will always find the alternative way around something its human nature.

By the way I found out the difference in what they call a (fee) only needs 51% to pass-through legislative. Were as a (tax) needs 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority. They are the same thing.

