



February 27, 2017

House Bill 42
Proponent Testimony of
Continental Tire

Chairman Young and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 42, legislation to prevent unsafe used tires from being placed in service on Ohio's roads. Continental Tire is asking for your support of this important measure. House Bill 42 will make the streets of Ohio safer for drivers and passengers because unsafe used tires create a risk for the owner of those tires and for everyone traveling near that vehicle. Selfishly, this legislation also protect each of our employees as they travel to work each day in Marysville, St Mary's and Fairlawn.

We all have tires on our vehicles. We have all purchased tire. Maybe even some of us have changed a tire. So we all feel like we know tires but the science of tire production and the engineering in designing tires is complex. Frequently tires are an under-appreciated piece of safety technology. In fact, tires are actually the only piece of safety technology that connects the car with the driving surface. This is why it is so important to ensure that the tires placed on vehicles are safe and in working condition. Ironically, because today's tires are so reliable, drivers have increasingly become complacent about tire maintenance and care and tires are now among a vehicle's most neglected parts.

At Continental, we stand behind our tires. Each day we work hard to improve the engineering and technology that results in better safety. Not all used tire are unsafe. Some, those exceeding the standard in House 42, are acceptable and safe. These are appropriate for sale to consumers for installation on their vehicles. But tires, like most consumer products, have a useable life. Use and damage to the tire's integrity can render it unsafe. We believe that the public is better served by ensuring that tires not meeting this standard are not travelling our roads.

House Bill 42 will make it unlawful to "...install an unsafe used tire on a passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle, or truck that will operate on a public highway." The legislation defines an unsafe used tire as showing one or more industry-accepted objective criteria that clearly indicates that a tire is unsafe. Indeed, these are so obvious that no reputable tire business should consider installing a tire with any of these conditions.

This bill does not eliminate used tires from the marketplace. What the bill seeks to do is to protect the consumer that needs a low cost solution and anyone who may be traveling along the same roadway. The standards in this bill are ones that a tire professional can easily use to determine that a tire is safe to be on the road. The bill is a move toward safer streets.

Thank you for your consideration.