

December 7, 2007

Office of the Mayor
City of Spokane
PO Box 31312
Spokane, WA 99223-3012

Dear Mayor Hession,

I am writing at the request of Mayor Mike Meyer, in regards to your letter of November 12, 2007, regarding studded snow tire use in our community.

The decision whether to use studded tires on city owned vehicles is left to the discretion of the managers of the various motor fleets maintained by ^{our} municipality. None of these managers have authorized studded snow tires on city vehicles for a number of years.

We appreciate your letter regarding the possible benefits of prohibiting studded tire use. While we, too, are interested in obtaining the maximum useful life from our roadways, we have identified some questions in regards to a studded tire ban. For example, our community borders Canada, is bisected by Interstate Five and is home to two major Customs Ports of Entry. Owing to our transportation environment, it is not uncommon that over half the vehicles using our roadway on any given day will be registered in a State or Province outside Washington. British Columbia for example, under its Motor Vehicle Act Section 19.03, makes studded tires legal province-wide from September 30th through May 1st of each year. An equipment regulation against studded tires would therefore bring a large share of our visiting public into non-compliance, and could prove problematic. We would be interested in hearing of proposals which address the issues of communities on state borders.

Thank you, again, for your letter, and good luck with your community's efforts.

Sincerely,

Mike Meyer
Mayor



City of Spokane

November 12, 2007

Office of the Mayor
City of Blaine
344 "H" St
Blaine, WA 98230



Dear Colleagues:

I write to share with you a recent step I took in the City of Spokane which has the potential to alter the course of conduct throughout the State of Washington, but I need your help and leadership.

This week I issued Executive Order No. 2007-2 eliminating and prohibiting the use of studs in tires on all City vehicles. I am enthusiastically encouraging you to do the same in your town, city or county.

For many years I have watched as studded tires created serious damage to our streets, roads and highways. You likely have observed the same. This costs millions of dollars per year in this state precipitating costly damage to our infrastructures, and at a time when all of us are challenged with inadequate resources and inflating expenses. If you have any doubts about the science of this phenomenon, please review The Study of Pavement and Studded Tire Damage, March 2006, which can be found on the Washington State Department of Transportation website at www.wsdot.wa.gov.

What I am hoping to do by this ban, and hopefully yours as well, is to inspire the Washington State Legislature to ban their use throughout the state and, in anticipation of the ban, to encourage the citizens of our communities not to use studs. There is ample evidence that other traction mechanisms, such as siped tires, are very effective at providing safe and effective traction. There are numerous examples of states such as Minnesota and Michigan that do not allow studded tires in winter environments that would be considered more serious than Washington's.

The law in our state does not allow individual towns, cities or counties to separately ban the use of studs, but eliminating their use within our governments would send a strong message to our State legislature that now is the time to take action. Even if you already have such a policy, it would be good to formalize it as to officially document the limitations, or if your climate has never required such, you could still make a statement by adopting such a policy.

"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"

This is an opportunity for us, as elected officials, to promote change at the state level by taking a strong position on an important issue. There is some precedence for this when many of us jointly "stormed" Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to protest the reduction of Community Development Block Grant Funds, and the impact that those of us who signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (720 as of November 6, 2007) are having on national policy related to global warming and climate change.

I am interested in hearing from you and commit to keeping track of each of your decisions and make it available to all of you. There are a total of 282 incorporated cities and towns and 39 counties. Please send all replies to P.O. Box 31312, Spokane Washington, 99223-3012.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dennis P. Hession
Mayor

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2007

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SPOKANE, WA

LGL 07-35

CITY OF SPOKANE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

MAYOR
EO 2007-02

TITLE: SNOW TIRES ON CITY OWNED VEHICLE
EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately Upon Signage
REVISION DATE (IF APPLICABLE)

WHEREAS, there is increasing support and evidence that the use of studded tires causes extensive damage to the street surface; and

WHEREAS, such damage includes damage to asphalt streets and the creation of deep groves in the road surfaces; and

WHEREAS, the damage cause to City streets from the use of studded snow tires also creates a significant financial burden on the City and its taxpayers who have to finance the rehabilitation of damaged streets; and

WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that the use of non-studded winter tires can provide the equal or great traction in winter driving conditions;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the City of Spokane as the largest City in this region and the second largest City in the State to take responsible leadership positions such as this one; and

NOW, THEREFORE, It is hereby ordered that all City-owned vehicles shall no longer use studded tires but will instead use non-studded winter tires. Provided however that the City's Fleet Services Department will eliminate the use of studded tires after the 2007-2008 winter season.

Dated this 9th day of November 2007.



Mayor
Dennis P. Hession