



TO: House Committee on Energy and Environment
FROM: Roger Cole
Grounds Sustainability Manager
Oregon Health & Science University
DATE: February 26, 2013
SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2860

Mail code L101
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park
Portland, OR 97239-3088
tel 503 494-6629
fax 503 494-7778
www.ohsu.edu

Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

Oregon Health & Science University supports House Bill 2860, which prohibits smoking in cars where minors are present.

HB 2860 would provide an exemption for hospital and long-term care facilities from the state standard that requires fuels to contain 5 percent biodiesel.

As many of you know, Oregon's Renewable Fuel Standard requires that all diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in Oregon must contain a minimum of 5 percent biodiesel by volume. Because Hospitals and long term care facilities need to maintain 24 hour service availability for patient care, these facilities store large amounts of emergency fuel to be used in emergency generators in case of a prolonged power outage.

The challenge for hospitals and long-term care providers is that biofuels have a limited shelf life, even in optimum conditions. The industry standard for maximum storage time of biofuels is 6 months. The fuel can stratify in longer-term storage and attract water, causing microbial growth. This growth can contaminate the fuel, causing a risk for malfunction of our emergency diesel generators or boilers.

OHSU currently stores over 100,000 gallons of fuel to support emergency generators for power outages and as back up fuel supply for steam boilers that provide heat to our campus. Emergency fuel supplies in generator tanks are never totally consumed. They are maintained to be always at the ready to support patient care and research functions in emergency situations. The fuel supply may take years to be completely replaced.

Currently there are exemptions in statute for 1) railroad locomotives, 2) marine engines and 3) home heating applications. By including the exception of emergency fuel storage for hospitals and long-term care facilities into the Renewable Fuel Standard, we would reduce the serious risk of failure of emergency equipment and loss of power to critical patient care services.

I encourage your support for this important legislation.

