



SUPPORT HB 3448

To ensure reliable function of life-saving services during an emergency situation

HB 3448 exempts facilities that store large amounts of diesel fuel for use in emergency power generators from the state biodiesel requirements.

The state requirement for diesel fuel to contain 5 percent biodiesel is a challenge for hospital facilities like OHSU that need to store fuel over a long period of time to power emergency generators because of the tendency for biodiesel to deteriorate over short periods of time.

Background

- 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.
- Hospitals are required to store enough fuel for 96 hours of continuous operation at all times.
- The challenge for health care facilities like hospitals that provide critical life-saving services is that biodiesel fuel has a limited shelf life, even in optimum conditions. The manufacturers standard for maximum storage time of biodiesel fuel is 6 months.
- OHSU currently stores over 100,000 gallons of fuel to support emergency generators for power outages. Emergency fuel supplies in generator tanks are never totally consumed as they are maintained to be always at the ready to support patient care and critical research functions in emergency situations. The fuel supply may take years to be completely replaced.
- Because of this long-term storage, there is a risk for malfunction of OHSU's emergency diesel generator engines or boilers if biodiesel is used.

By including in statute an exemption for "facilities that store more than 50-gallons of diesel fuel for use in emergency power generation" OHSU and other hospital facilities can be sure emergency generators will work in order to provide continuous care during a significant power outage.

Please support HB 3448 to guarantee that emergency power generators will function properly and provide continuous life-saving service in emergency situations.

From the desk of Representative Jules Bailey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jules Bailey', is written over a horizontal line.

For more information, please contact Suzy Funkhouser (cell: 503-701-6212) or Julie Hanna (cell: 503-860-2662) of OHSU Government Relations.