

March 31, 2015

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

My name is Garrett Wolfard and I'm from Silverton, OR. I am unable to be present to give verbal testimony, due to my work obligations, but hope you will accept this letter instead. For the record, I am very concerned about the impact House Bill 3310 will have on many Oregonians, but especially to small business owners.

I have worked hard these last years after graduating from Silverton High School. After working through Oregon State University, and continuing to work various jobs, saving money, staying focused, I am now poised to purchase a small business in the next one to two years. The prospect of owning this business is a dream I have had for some time, but when I heard of HB 3310 I am worried that my dream might be dead before it ever came to fruition. The reason I say this is because of what HB 3310 would cost me. The business is a small startup that has a combination of about 9 older semi-trucks or other large diesel equipment. I have spoken to several people in the industry about what it would cost to retrofit these engines and the average is about 18,000 dollars. I strongly doubt that I, or the current owners, would be able to afford the cost of retrofitting 9 engines for a total 162,000 dollars over 5 years. Voting yes for this would effectively be telling us to close our doors.

The industry is already moving toward clean-diesel trucks. I found this interesting fact from the Portland Tribune when I was researching this problem. "Of 357,464 large interstate trucks registered to do business partly in Oregon, 242,227, or 67.8 percent, were built since 2008, and are thus clean-diesel trucks, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier division."

The remaining older trucks will be naturally phased out, but if you rush it you will be putting Oregon small business owners out of business. It is important to really consider the cost and effects of well-intentioned legislation to those who are going to have to implement it. I understand the need for a clean environment but it also needs to be balanced with what the citizens can handle at a given time. I urge a no vote on HB 3310.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Garrett Wolfard

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