

The Association of Oregon Counties Feedback on HB 3310

The Association of Oregon Counties appreciates the goals of HB 3310. Having livable communities is a priority for AOC and the counties. While clean air is clearly an important aspect of our communities, having viable road departments is important too. With this in mind, AOC would like to report some concerns county road officials raised after reviewing HB 3310.

Under this bill, counties will incur significant costs from either costly retrofits or premature replacement of equipment with pre-2007 engines. In an effort to maximize value to the public, counties have stretched their equipment replacement cycles as much as possible, so the funds can instead be used patching potholes and paving roads. The result of this necessary triage, due in large part to a lack of adjustment to the static gas-tax rate, is older county equipment and significant replacement costs. Mandating equipment replacement or retrofit will force county maintenance and enhancement needs to grow far beyond the existing shortfall of \$505 million per year. Managing a fleet of vehicles is very difficult and it takes great discipline to sustain the quality of the public's investment over time.

AOC acknowledges the importance of having policies in place to curb the emissions of potentially harmful particulate matter and green house gases. However, without sufficient funding for daily maintenance and improvements on the county roads, the economic and fiscal burden of HB 3310 will create an overwhelming challenge.

If a workgroup formed to continue consideration of this important issue, AOC would appreciate having a seat at the table. AOC forward to working together in the future.

FISCAL ESTIMATES FROM A SAMPLING OF COUNTIES

	HB 3310 (Low)	HB 3310 (High)
Benton	\$50,000	\$225,000
Yamhill	\$474,000	\$474,000
Lincoln	\$200,000	\$200,000
Josephine	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
Deschutes	\$800,000	\$800,000
Jackson	\$150,000	\$1,800,000
Klamath	\$400,000	\$3,000,000
Tillamook	\$835,000	\$835,000
Linn	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Union	\$200,000	\$200,000
Hood River	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Morrow	\$300,000	\$300,000
Clackamas	"Millions"	
Lake	"just not feasible"	
Wallowa	"hard to estimate"	
Average:	\$609,083	\$977,833

These estimates are all based on educated “back of the envelope” calculations. Many counties have already investigated investing in cleaner diesel but have not had the funding to do so. Some counties mentioned that the retrofits necessary for HB 3310 may actually cause their existing vehicles to no longer operate correctly.