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My name is Gene Kinsey. My wife and I presently live in Eastern Washington a little north of Pendleton Oregon. I am speaking today in regard to the possibility that some of the remote areas of southeast Oregon may be allowed to install card operated pumps in their filling stations. The possibility of this being allowed could impact us in a positive way. Now I will try to explain.

My mother, Margaret Eckstein and her husband Clarence owned the business at Burns Junction for many years. This business is located in an 8 acre triangle where highway 78 connects with highway 95. Together they worked as a team and did not have to hire much help. But, when Clarence died my mother had to hire. One of the major positions was the person to manage the traffic through the gas pumps.

Finding the right person for the pumps for my mother was then and still is a serious problem now. The community of neighbors willing to work in this position at Burns Junction are not only in very short supply but may not be found at all. The hours when sufficient traffic needing gas is highest in summer midday but very short in cold wintertime and the profitability angle needs to be seriously considered. Who would like to be hired for a summer to early fall job and be laid off in winter when traffic is light? I vaguely remember my mother hiring for weekends when there was more traffic.

Since my mother passed away, there has been no business operating at Burns Junction. We inherited the Junction after her death and we have tried hard to keep the place viable as an opportunity for a new beginning. I am positive that being able to install a card operating fuel arrangement would help immensely.

A special point to consider in favor of having a card operated fuel station is this. A winter traveler misses a sign that tells how far it is to the next fuel. Running out of gas at night and in the cold can be life threatening. Having a card operated fuel station in a shorter distance than 100 miles could be a life saver. I know that there were times in the past when my mother would wake up in the morning and someone would be waiting under the canopy for her to fill their tank.

Another major reason for having card operated pumps at Burns Junction is that the money for the next load of replacement fuel will be in the bank. There will be no question about what that money was spent on.

I hope you have listened carefully to what I have said. My wife and I have spent a significant amount of money trying to keep the maintenance of Burns Junction in a position where it could someday be again a very viable business for someone. Having card operated pumps could be the beginning of an income stream that would help this to happen.

I love to explore. Having card operations in Fields, in Rome, and other locations could make it possible for myself and many others to enjoy exploring this piece of our nation. A major part in capital letters of Eastern Oregon is a marvelous piece of beauty. Silver City which is east of Jordan Valley is full of history. It is in Idaho but the best path to that place is through Oregon. But, it like many other places is best explored with good weather and a full tank of gas!

Thank you Representative Cliff Bentz for the invitation to speak here today and thank you audience for listening,

Gene Kinsey