

HONORABLE CHAIR BEYER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Scott Bartlett from Eugene, Oregon. I come before you as a private citizen urging the Committee to proceed with great caution before passing this bill, HB 3011, as presently worded. It is a solution chasing a fairly non-existent problem. It has loopholes wide enough for a fleet of semi trailer trucks and triple-wides to race through.,

As currently drafted, it would allow virtual round the clock, 24-7 self-service gasoline in more than half of Oregon's 36 counties- 18 counties to be precise. This bill is a dangerous over-reach with unanticipated consequences and undeveloped details. It would represent a major retreat from Oregon's historic motorist protection ban on self-service gasoline.

Under Oregon's existing statute, there are numerous valid reasons for disallowing self-service dispensing; they relate to personal health and safety.

I ask that the Committee, at the very least, insert hard and honest language which would narrow the time frame for non-normal working hours in which self-service would be permitted. This could be 6 PM to 6 AM or 8PM to 7 AM. Without this language limiting the time for self-service access, a station owner would never need to open his facility and staff would not need to be present. That would be most reckless-not to mention the hundreds or thousands of lost jobs across the State. I doubt seriously that the cities of Astoria, Hood River, The Dalles and other large areas within these subject counties actually need self-service because gas is unavailable. Gas stations which operate 24-7 already, along freeway corridors, would be unfairly impacted by allowing unattended self-service stations suddenly compete with them.

Further, the State Fire Marshall's Office would need to provide oversight and there are additional revenue consequences for this. Inspection areas would include checking the pumps and nozzles, automatic shut-off devices, so-called anchor spring devices, the need for posting mandatory safety signage, making periodic inspections from Astoria to Ontario and locales in between-all across the State- etc. Further, it is believed that consideration must be given to requiring that operators increase liability insurance necessary if thousands of Oregonians would now be pumping their own gas at unattended facilities. I ask that the recent State Fire Marshall Staff analysis on this bill's oversight requirements be considered before you pass this bill in haste. This bill is fraught with potential dangerous situations which should be closely considered.

There are many great things that distinguish Oregon and Oregonians-our people and our natural resources and landscapes. That goes for public policy as well and I ask that you keep in mind that Oregonians have historically reaffirmed their opposition to self-service gas. It is a statement of how we Oregonians value personal health and consumer safety.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAIR HEARING AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF MY TESTIMONY.