

House committee

February 22, 2017

HB 2482

Thank you for letting me testify today.

I own a small gas station convenience store in Wallowa Oregon. I'm the third generation of my family to own and operate the store since my grandfather bought it forty five years ago. I've owned it for the last five years, and the first day I was closed was for his funeral last year. After the self serve law was passed last year I closed for thanksgiving and Christmas also the first time in five years. I had several people that were able to get fuel and not get stranded. Due to the time restriction it was also illegal.

The Time restriction keeps it from being available during the day when a small store like mine would be closed on holidays or other days when it just doesn't pay to be open. In my case allowing people to fuel their own vehicle will not cost anyone a job. Most the time there is only one person on duty at a time.

One of the concerns that was brought up was the ability of disabled persons to be able to get fuel. We are more than willing to help people that would like it, but if its not available when were not open they have no ability at all legally. My facility already allows people to self serve diesel and have not had any problems. I've also taught a lot of people how to pump gas so they can get it at night.

Passing this bill will not eliminate full serve gas in eastern Oregon. I have talked to several owners that due to how their business operates they have told me they do not plan to offer self serve fuel. I like to think that as a business owner it is their right to offer the level of service that they choose.

In the last five years I have had over twenty five employees. Some great and some not. Finding someone that can run the store alone and not steal from me or cost me from mistakes is so hard I usually end up working it myself most the time. The turnover is huge in the fueling industry.

The only two places in north America that I have found that you cannot legally pump your own gas is Oregon and New Jersey. Both states fall in the middle of the unemployment rate of the whole united states. 4.6% and 4.7% respectively according to BLS for December 2016.

Any questions please let me know

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