

House Transportation Policy Committee
Public Hearing on Friday February 10, 2017
Testimony of Ralph Poole
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Re: House Bill 2458

The members of Campo & Poole Distributing, LLC have been in the petroleum business in Oregon for over 50 years. Because of the high cost of running retail fuel outlets in Oregon, we have chosen to get out of the retail business and focus on non-retail cardlocks. We currently have 5 cardlock sites in Oregon in Malheur and Baker counties. After the passing of legislation that allows some self-service sales of gasoline in small Oregon counties, it became obvious that a large number very rural sites where self-service gasoline was needed the most, would not be offering self-service gasoline because of the cost of equipment.

The cost of a gasoline dispenser with credit card readers can exceed \$20,000 and most small retail sites just cannot afford that investment. Cardlock operators operate sites in many small rural areas and their sites already have card reading equipment and would require only a programming change to accommodate retail customers.

I am therefore recommending the passage of HB 2458 which will help to get gasoline to more of the traveling public.

Re: House Bill 2482

Allowing self-service in small Oregon counties would be a huge benefit to the citizens of those counties as well any traveling public. The rising cost of labor in Oregon has a much greater impact on small Oregon counties because fueling sites in those counties cannot spread that higher labor cost over as many gallons sold as the higher volume units in larger counties. Therefore, the higher cost of fuel in those counties is passed on to customers that have to travel further due to the rural nature of smaller counties.

I believe having self-service gasoline is safer than full-service. My companies have operated sites in Oregon and Idaho and have watched the activity around the fuel islands. In self-service applications, customers activate pumps and stay beside the pump as it fills the vehicle. In a full-service application, the fuel island can have many cars being fueled at one time with virtually no one watching the process. One island attendant is usually running from car to car to start the fuel and then head on to the next while the vehicle owner may head into the store, leaving no one paying any attention to the fueling process.

To say that the people of Oregon are not safe enough, not smart enough, not fit enough or whatever the excuse; they have all become obsolete reasons. Oregon should follow the lead of 48 other states in our country and allow self-service gasoline dispensing. We allow anyone to pump their own diesel and we allow companies employees with cards to cardlock systems fuel on their own. Why shouldn't the average citizen in Oregon be allowed to do the same?

I am therefore recommending the passage of HB 2482.