

Submitter: Matthew Koppenhaver
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4151
To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Matthew Koppenhaver
Re: Oppose HB 4151

Chairs Beyer and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Matthew Koppenhaver, and I live in Baker City. I listened to the testimony provided during the hearing, and I oppose HB 4151 for various reasons. Unlike other people who testified before the committee, I come from the perspective of working as a fuel attendant and clerk at a local fuel station, adjacent to Interstate 84, for more than nineteen years.

First, in response to Barry O'Mahony response about a senior from Baker City not having a problem with self-service fueling. Do not try to explain it to my 64-year-old stubborn Sagittarian mother. She remembers working as a fuel attendant in the late 1980s and prefers to have an attendant provide service because she finds modern fueling equipment too complicated to use.

Second, the problem with some filling stations providing self-service is the fact their equipment may be too old to allow for self-service filling to take place. One particular location in Baker City, has six dispensers dating to the Reagan Administration, with mechanical number displays. In order for an operator to update their equipment, they face costs of nearly \$18,000 per dispenser replacement, not to mention the cost of updating related infrastructure. This is the reason why some small operators, especially in rural parts of Oregon, still turn off the pumps after the store closes for the day,

Third, a fuel attendant on duty would be knowledgeable about the characteristics of the location's equipment and would be able to assist the customer with any problems during the fueling process.

Fourth, hiring 16 and 17-year-olds as fuel attendants provides young individuals the opportunity to learn work habits as they become adults. Because many locations have an attached convenience store, the restricted sales of alcohol and tobacco products restricts the tasks these young adults can do.

Having an attendant on duty helps address some issues a strictly self-service station

employee may run into. They can help in the deterrence of theft and robbery, provide assistance if there is a fall or incident on the property, and mitigate customers from engaging in actions which should not be conducting while at the pump. This includes smoking or vaping, being on their phone (when signs instruct otherwise), or using the pump with the latch-open feature and, leaving their vehicle to refuel while shopping in the store.

I realize the pandemic and employment climate is creating a hardship for many retailers in many sectors, but HB 4151 is not the solution we need. I ask the Committee to vote against it and the amendment.

Respectfully,

Matthew L.G. Koppenhaver
Baker City