

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Co-Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McLain  
Co-Vice Chairs Senator Boquist and Representative Boshart Davis  
RE: Public Testimony Opposing HB 4141

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Joint Committee:

My name is Lindsay Berschauer. I am the Chair of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners and I reside in Carlton. This testimony represents my individual views, and not those of my collective Board.

I urge you to OPPOSE House Bill 4141.

It strikes me that many of the bills under consideration in this short session represent monumental shifts in the way our critical industries operate. These industries are the backbone of Oregon's economy. The short session was never intended to rush through transitional policies, it was intended to fix budgetary issues from the previous regular session and provide an opportunity to deal with critical needs. Severely limiting the availability of diesel fuel is not an emergency, and the catastrophic impact this policy will have on natural resource businesses deserves more than one public hearing, and not during a workday with the Capitol closed to the public. It is shameful what this body is considering while "no one is paying attention".

House Bill 4141 neglects to consider that the vast majority of natural resource businesses use regular diesel because there is simply not a reliable and plentiful supply of biodiesel or renewable diesel able to support our statewide economy. This is true, despite Oregon already offering incentives and regulations that force more renewables into the market. Trucks, trains, farm equipment, fishing boats, and construction equipment all run on diesel fuel, and if operators are forced to purchase a specific kind of diesel while statewide supply is scarce, the cost of goods and services will skyrocket. The world runs on diesel, and so do Oregon's major industries.

The Oregonian reported today that inflation is at a 40-year high. We've had two consecutive years now of 7.5% inflation. Economists predict that we could see sustained inflationary conditions near 10% for years to come. Oregonians are struggling with astronomical food costs and high gas prices. The payroll gains seen in the last few years are being erased and new polling shows Oregonians with record-high anxiety levels about their personal finances. This is not the time to be forcing transition away from one of the most critical inputs needed for Oregon's economic success. This is not the time to be raising the cost of goods and services on the backs of our working families.

Before Oregon makes a reckless decision to remove critical fuels from the market without knowing what amount of renewable supply will be available, you must first analyze the effectiveness of existing programs like Clean Fuels, the Climate Protection Program and the brand new 'Cap and Trade' plan. If investment into these programs has only yielded less than 5% of the usable diesel supply in our state, eliminating regular diesel would mean complete market and economic disruption. Oregonians deserve more stability right now, not less.

Please vote NO on HB 4141.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsay Berschauer  
Yamhill County Commissioner, Board Chair