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Chair Grayber  
Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans  
*Submitted via OLIS*

### **Support HB 2426 – Consumer Choice at the Pump**

Oregon Fuels Association

Testimony

*Feb. 21, 2023*

The Oregon Fuels Association (OFA) is the voice of Oregon’s locally and family-owned fuel stations, fuel distributors and heating oil providers, including hundreds of small, independent businesses across Oregon.

We urge you to support House Bill 2426 and the -5 amendment, which would allow drivers to choose from both self-service and attended service at gas stations statewide.

HB 2426 is a bipartisan bill that has overwhelming public support. It is no secret that Oregon has unique gas fueling laws. Nevertheless, as explained by gas station owners, finding employees to pump gas is extremely hard – and even impossible in some cases – which in turn makes it impossible to keep gas stations open and operating. HB 2426 helps relieve pressure in this tight labor market, while preserving the choice to fuel your own vehicle or opt for an attendant to fuel the vehicle.

House Bill 2426 does several important things. First, it reduces the patchwork of attended service laws by removing Curry, Clatsop and Tillamook County restrictions that only allow self-service during the night hours. It also allows Umatilla and Klamath Counties the ability to now offer self-service like their neighboring counties.

Second, for gas stations in counties that are required to provide attended service, it provides critical relief by allowing those stations to offer no more than 50% self-service and 50% attended service – giving consumers the choice of pumping their own gas. This can be particularly helpful given the long lines at many gas stations due to labor shortages. Importantly, self-service and full-service pumps will be clearly marked and fuel will be offered at the same price.

Third, the bill allows the State Fire Marshal to work with gas stations to educate the public during this transition. In working with the Fire Marshal, we understood that regulating self-service is not a core component of their mission. With that in mind, we did not want to add to their workload or distract from the important work that they do. We believe this will be an effective strategy to ensure our fuel stations and their customers understand the law and ensures that they can safely access fuel in their communities.

Looking ahead, we believe HB 2426 (-5) strikes an important balance between business and customer needs. For some stations, that might mean providing their customers attended service at each pump. Keeping customers in mind, we believe this will also be an easy transition for our customers – because, again, OFA members need these returning customers to stay in business.

Thank you for supporting HB 2426.

Sincerely,

Mike Freese  
Oregon Fuels Association