

Susheela Jayapal



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Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

March 3, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members Golden, Hayden and Lieber

RE: Senate Bill 803

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findler and Senators Golden, Hayden and Lieber,

I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 803, which will gradually replace obsolete petroleum diesel with Renewable Diesel for sale as a fuel source in Oregon by 2030. Renewable diesel has the same chemical composition as petroleum diesel, with a substantially lower carbon intensity and produces less harmful soot. The transportation sector is the largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon and diesel fuel makes up a substantial portion of transportation emissions, despite diesel powered vehicles making up a very small portion of the transportation fleet overall. Transitioning to renewable diesel will lower Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce air pollution on a much faster timeline than any other solution available today.

The majority of black carbon comes from petroleum diesel. Oregon is experiencing a number of climate and health emergencies, including toxic levels of air pollution and severe drought. Black carbon is a deadly greenhouse gas that comes from petroleum diesel and is one of the biggest human made contributors to premature snow melt and warming, which causes water scarcity and drought in Oregon. Exposure to black carbon is a [serious health threat](#) as well. Populations with higher exposures to black carbon over a long period are at a higher risk for heart attacks and stroke. In addition, black carbon is associated with hypertension, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchitis, and cancer.

Senate Bill 308 will not hurt local businesses or increase costs of fuel. The bill does not require any equipment changeouts, does not mandate the use of a particular fuel or energy source, and does not impose any new taxes.

Renewable diesel is an ultra-clean burning fuel. It delivers real savings to fleets in increased performance and reduced per-mile maintenance costs. SB 803 will reduce the amount of black carbon being released into our air resulting in better health outcomes, and make an impact on climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susheela Jayapal".

Susheela Jayapal  
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2