

Commissioner Lori Stegmann

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March 7, 2023

Senate Committee
Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Letter of Support for SB 803: Relating to Diesel Fuel

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to share my support for SB 803. This bill would establish standards for carbon intensity in diesel fuel, and by 2030 would replace petroleum diesel with renewable diesel.

We are experiencing a climate emergency. Whether it's extreme weather, from droughts to flooding, wildfires, worsening air quality, or contamination of our oceans, rivers, and lakes the bottom line is that we must transition away from fossil fuels. Multnomah County has had a longstanding commitment to address climate change. In 2009, the County and the City of Portland adopted our Climate Action Plan, establishing long-term goals for reducing carbon emissions — 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The current iteration of the Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2015, expanding the focus to include climate adaptation planning, public health and social equity.

In 2017, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and the Portland City Council adopted more stringent goals of eliminating all carbon emissions communitywide by 2050 and decarbonizing electricity supplies no later than 2035. These actions have resulted in emissions from Multnomah County operations dropping by 65% since 2007 - the baseline year for reporting. Communitywide, Multnomah County emissions have decreased 19% below 1990 levels. However, transportation emissions have increased in recent years and are one of the largest contributors to global warming. This acceleration underscores the urgency to transition away from fossil fuels.

SB 803 would help address transportation emissions. The transportation sector heavily relies upon diesel fuel, and is the largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon. By phasing out the

use of petroleum diesel and replacing it with renewable diesel, SB 803 would lower Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and the detrimental impacts on our climate and air quality.

The climate crisis is an immediate and direct threat to our very existence. We must make policy decisions that protect our shared future and eliminate environmental harms that all too often fall disproportionately on vulnerable communities. SB 803 allows us to work together to improve our air quality and reduce the devastating impacts that fossil fuels have on our community. I urge the Committee to pass SB 803.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Stegmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Stegmann
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 4