

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Opposition Testimony to SB 803

Chair Sollman, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to SB 803. By way of background the Oregon Home Builders Association (OHBA) represents nearly 3,000 members engaged in the residential construction industry and dedicated to affordable homeownership opportunities for all.

Oregon is in the middle of a housing crisis. Builders across the state are overburdened with significant barriers to developing needed housing. The homebuilding industry cannot afford any greater disruptions to our supply chain or materials delivery during this already challenging time. OHBA is opposed to SB 803 as it may have significant downstream implications for the delivery of materials and fueling of vehicles needed on construction sites.

From our understanding, SB 803 would essentially ban the use of petroleum-based diesel within the next seven years, regardless of the availability of renewable diesel. Based on expert testimony provided at the last hearing, there is a lack of renewable diesel supply to replace current fuel sources. With this in mind, SB 803 could have harmful unintended consequences to the residential construction industry, along with a host of other industries that Oregonians heavily rely on. While we are not opposed to the usage of renewable fuel sources in vehicles, we are opposed to mandating a specific fuel source that is not readily available to sustain current and future needs.

SB 803 is not a viable solution to incentivizing renewable diesel and may have serious unintended consequences for needed housing development. For these reasons we oppose SB 803 and urge this Committee to vote NO on this concept.

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