



SeSequential[®]

REFUEL STATION

www.SQbiofuels.com

86714 McVay Highway
Eugene OR, 97405

May 2, 2023

RE: Support for HB 2426 –

Good afternoon Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2426.

For the record my name is Ian Hill, co-owner of SeSequential Refuel Station in Eugene, OR. We opened our business in 2006 as OR's first biofuel station. We have been selling blends of Oregon made biodiesel and ethanol for sixteen years. Our parent company SeSequential Biodiesel was recently sold to Neste US. Due to this sale, our retail store has switched to selling renewable diesel or R99. We are one of only a couple fuel stations in Oregon selling renewable diesel. Additionally, we offer e85 or 85% ethanol blended with 15% gasoline. The ethanol is made in Boardman by Pacific Ethanol and our store is again one of only a couple fuel stations in Oregon offering e85.

I tell you this to outline our station's role in helping advance renewable fuel availability in Oregon. As a small business we are fulfilling an important niche that offers Oregon fuel consumers greater and cleaner fuel choices. But we are struggling.

For the last several years we have had an increasingly difficult time finding new employees especially for the fuel attendant role. The labor market is very competitive and it is an extremely difficult environment for small fuel stations.

While we support the directional change represented by HB 2426, we would prefer that the Bill went further and simply did away with OR's full service fueling requirement entirely.

If it is not possible to completely remove the full-service requirement at this time and the 50/50 approach outlined in HB 2426 is the best option available. We would like to propose an Amendment be added to HB 2426 that would exempt small stations with fewer than 10 fueling positions to be permitted to go to full self-service.

The 50/50 requirement is problematic for us in that we only have one attendant pumping fuel at a time so we would see no savings in labor. Large fuel stations like Fred Meyer, Costco, Safeway and Pilot would be able to reduce their staffed positions by half, saving them money and granting them a further competitive advantage to reduce prices to the consumer.

Oregon policy already treats small businesses differently in a number of policy matters so this concept is not new or unusual.

In summation, I support the passage of HB 2426 but ask for consideration and the allowance of a small business exemption from the full service fueling requirement entirely.

Sincerely,

Ian Hill
Co-Owner of SeSequential Refuel Station
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