

Testimony from Representative Bobby Levy in Support of HB 3119

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Levy and as the representative for House District 58, I am deeply concerned about the immediate impact these regulations will have on my district and Oregon's economy, workforce, and consumers across the state.

While the goal of transitioning to cleaner technologies is commendable, the premature implementation of the ACT regulations would repeat many of the challenges and failures experienced in California. California's rollout of its Advanced Clean Trucks mandate has been a catastrophe. From inadequate charging infrastructure, skyrocketing costs for businesses, and the lack of availability of zero-emission vehicles suitable for heavy-duty and rural applications—California, in the name of the climate crisis, invoked these extreme regulations without the necessary infrastructure in place to help the ACT be successful. A problem that Oregon knows all too well with premature proposals such as the 2020 Measure 110.

But beyond timing, the technology needed to meet the demands of Oregon's workforce does not exist. There are no EV models available for the F-250s, F-350s, tow trucks, RVs, and other essential heavy-duty vehicles that industries such as construction, farming, trucking, plumbing, and logging rely on. By effectively banning new diesel models, the state is eliminating the only practical and available option for these workers, making it harder for them to do their jobs and support their families.

And as such, rural Oregon will be disproportionately impacted. Whereas many of the jobs requiring heavy-duty vehicles and pick-up trucks exist outside of metropolitan areas and charging infrastructure is sparse in rural communities, and this mandate will only widen the urban-rural divide, making it harder for rural businesses to operate and compete.

HB 3119 provides a reasonable and necessary delay to allow Oregon to learn from California's experience, address infrastructure gaps, and work with impacted stakeholders to ensure a balanced, achievable approach. This pause will enable us to pursue cleaner transportation solutions without jeopardizing the livelihoods of the people and industries that keep Oregon running.

I urge your support for HB 3119. Let us take the time to do this right—protecting both our environment and the economic well-being of our communities, rural and urban.

Respectfully,
Representative Bobby Levy
House District 5