

Submitter: Brad Dennis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

I am writing in support of HB 3119, which delays the implementation of California's truck emission standards in Oregon. The only charging station for electric semi-trucks is in Portland at the Daimler manufacturing facility. Now imagine that an electric truck started driving North on I5, from Redding California – heading to Seattle. They would run out of juice in Ashland and would be stuck, since AAA doesn't have the ability to help these drivers. Someone would have to bring in a diesel generator on a flatbed truck to charge them up. And then, they would run out of juice again in Salem. Time for another flatbed truck with a diesel generator. For trucks heading from Portland to Boise, they would need to re-charge in Pendleton. We will need a lot of diesel generators on standby.

The problem is that the charging infrastructure doesn't exist. Tesla has stated that they will build a lot of trucks this year, but they haven't built a charging infrastructure like they did for passenger vehicles. There needs to be a massive amount of investment in infrastructure before we can realistically consider the phaseout of diesel trucks. Tesla is counting on government regulation, forcing a switchover to electric, and they are ready to build the trucks. Well, let them build the charging stations first. If the electric trucks are a fantastic thing, the market will adopt them without further government regulation.

And while we're talking infrastructure, let's consider the roads that will need to be rebuilt to handle the heavier vehicles that will be traveling on them. We'd better increase the ODOT budget.

I don't think that a 2-year delay will be enough. We're just kicking the can down the road to the 2027 legislature. I suggest keeping the DEQ rules on hold, until there are some number of truck charging stations in place in Oregon. For example, start with 20 stations in place along the major highways in Oregon, before phasing in these regulations.

Finally, someone should be considering the placement of NuScale SMR generation systems across the state to provide the huge amounts of electricity that will be needed. Electricity rates are going to go through the roof, affecting all Oregonians. If you thought inflation has been a problem, get ready for the predictable increase in costs of everything as the years go by, due to this electrification project.