

Submitter: Josiah Barron
On Behalf Of: Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

Greetings Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment.

I am writing to stand in strong support of HB 3119 to delay the implementation or enforcement of the regulations connected to the Advanced Clean Trucks Act until January 1, 2027. We agree Oregon is a beautiful state and it requires responsible environmental stewardship to keep it that way. We also believe there must be a balance between achieving environmental stewardship goals and supporting the local business economy, especially the small, family-owned businesses. We are excited to see the growth in Umatilla and the surrounding communities including the new opportunities that new infrastructure brings to our area, yet we still have very limited infrastructure that could accommodate much less sustain a major increase in the need for electrical vehicle charging stations.

Simply put, Umatilla and our region do not have the electric vehicle charging infrastructure at this time for our transportation, logistics, agricultural, utility, and construction businesses, many of which are small to medium size family-owned businesses, to continue to operate and serve our community without an undue financial and regulatory burden. Additionally, our local grocery stores and restaurants receive their products delivered in the very same type of heavy-duty trucks that would be regulated under the Advanced Clean Trucks rules which could likely have the effect of driving up the costs for the delivery business, retailers, and ultimately the consumer.

We believe delaying DEQ's implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations to at least 2027 will have the beneficial effect of providing more time for development and addition of necessary infrastructure for expanding usage of EVs and Zero Emission vehicles without placing a harmful regulatory burden on our local businesses. Expanding the network of infrastructure that can sustain large scale use of zero emission vehicles is not a process that should be rushed or forced ahead at the expense of our communities vital local businesses.

Stewarding Oregon's future does not have to be an either-or decision of choosing the environment over local business. We can choose to protect both and still be responsible. I strongly encourage your support of HB 3119. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Josiah Barron, Executive Director
Umatilla Chamber of Commerce