



House Committee of Energy and Environment

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April 8, 2019

Dear Representatives:

**Bill Harvey**  
Commission Chair  
[bharvey@bakercounty.org](mailto:bharvey@bakercounty.org)

Baker County would like to express their opposition to HB 2007. The Baker County Commissioners are elected to represent the approximately 16,134 residents of the County. This bill targets agriculture, forestry, and the County Road Department with unneeded regulations and increased costs.

The County is certainly sympathetic to the position of the metropolitan areas, however, eastern Oregon has a lack of air quality issues with economies that lag far behind the metro area. To force rural Oregon to absorb the same timeline and regulations as the metro area is both unfair and extremely cost prohibitive. Baker County is calling for the scope of the regulations to be limited to areas with continuous air quality concerns.

Baker County will be forced to replace (40) vehicles, a cost that we cannot afford. Lack of funds, short construction seasons and a lack of air quality concerns have contributed to our aging, but functional, fleet.

In addition to concerns regarding our own vehicle replacement, we are concerned for our citizens in the ag, natural resources, and contracting businesses. Farm, forestry, and contracting equipment is often powered by diesel fuel, which provides the power transfer, horsepower, and long-life no other current technologies possess. While HB 2007 exempts some of the farm and forestry equipment, others will still fall under the mandate. For example, trucks used by family farms to haul commodities to market would be subject to Section 3 regulations. Farm families do not have the financial capacity to meet 2010 or newer diesel requirements. Farm, forestry, and contractor equipment costs can be equivalent to a moderate home mortgage and are not purchased on a regular cycle.

Section 3, as drafted would apply to small woodland owners and the log trucks they depend on. Like the County's Road equipment and the farming and contractor's equipment, log trucks are utilized for limited durations throughout the year. Baker County would like to see log trucks exempt from the regulations.

Section 8 – Clean Diesel in Public Contracts, places regulations on public contracts. Baker County's economy is powered by local businesses. The requirements for fleets to have 80% diesel engines newer than 2010 will adversely

impact small contractors and allow only large project in rural Oregon to be awarded to larger contractors that can absorb the costs.

This bill would limit trucks from out of state to operate in Oregon. This is bad for everyone and will have a significant impact on our economy.

Like many bills in this legislative this session, HB 870 is vague and does not provide specifics on what defines a small fleet.

Remove the emergency clause. The Oregon Constitution gives citizens the right to challenge legislation through referendum. The inclusion of this indefensible clause illustrates that the supporters of the bill do not want those in opposition to have a chance to refer the bill to the voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please, join with us in stopping this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Harvey", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Harvey, Chair  
Baker County Commission