

Legislators:

This is to urge you not to pass HB 4151, yet another attempt to force self-service gas on Oregonians.

Once again, gasoline retailers, through their trade association, are trying to push self-service down our throats. The majority of voters have made clear NUMEROUS times that we don't want self-service gas dispensing in Oregon. But, just like their actions regarding driver's licenses for illegal non-residents, the Legislature apparently does not care about the clearly-expressed desires of the electorate.

But, besides the fact that Oregonians don't want it, there are a number of problems with this legislation.

Section 2 of HB 4151 says that gas stations MAY designate pumps for self-service, indicating that it is optional. At Section 3, it requires a certain percentage of pumps be reserved for full-service (and full-service only - an obvious attempt to make this mandate more "palatable" evidently). BUT, the larger stations, with multiple islands and too many pumps to count, are exempt from having ANY pumps reserved for full-service.

Was that intentional? The bill clearly mandates that NO MORE than 40% of such a station's pumps can be reserved for FULL-service. So, in other words, even though Section 2 says that providing self-service is optional, Section 3 contradicts that. (And what does the owner/operator do with the other 60% of his pumps?)

And, of course, we all know that the provisions of Section 2(5) of the bill - requiring fuel dispensed at the full-serve islands to be sold at the same price as self-service gas - will be the first to be eliminated in a subsequent legislative session, don't we?

Additionally, Section 11(2) would allow self-service to begin immediately, upon the word of the State Fire Marshall, thanks to COVID. This sure wasn't mentioned in the news reports on this bill! Plus, of course, the legislation contains the usual "fake emergency" clause, to ensure that a referendum is not possible. This whole thing reminds one of 2019 SB 1013 and the underhanded actions of then-Rep. Jennifer Williamson. Some of our legislators sure have contempt for the citizens of this state, don't they?

Rep. Boshart Davis calls this "a win for every Oregonian." Not if you're mobility-challenged!!

Please vote NO on this bill.

If the gasoline dealers, and the Oregonians too young to remember the history of the previous attempts to mandate this, still want to pursue it, then PUT IT ON THE BALLOT so that we ALL may make a choice in the matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

G. DuBois
Maywood Park