

Submitter: John Weigant
On Behalf Of: Elders Climate Action-Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4141

HB 4141 deserves passage. It correctly recognizes that certain activities, like the production of CO₂, damage the planet's delicate balance, and must be cut. Some activities, like agriculture, are necessary for human survival and must not be excessively restricted. Optional activities, like recreation, can tolerate more restriction for the common good.

HB 4141 ignores this distinction by restricting its focus to highway motor vehicles. Many larger pleasure boats are diesel powered. Some off-road vehicles are diesel-powered, as are many remote generators. This bill should be modified to focus on diesel engines, wherever they are, and the diesel fuel distribution system, with exceptions for activities necessary for survival, like agriculture.

One way to do that is change the definition of Section 1(2):

(2) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle, INCLUDING BOATS AND NON-EMERGENCY ELECTRICITY GENERATORS, [operated on the highway,] except an implement of husbandry... AND HEAVY MILITARY VEHICLES.

Testimony before EPA by Bakers' Associations indicates this measure will use so much soy oil it will damage public food costs. Therefore the following amendment is also suggested:

Section 1(5)(a) A diesel fuel substitute, produced from nonfossil renewable resources, excluding palm AND SOY oil, AND ANY EDIBLE OIL WHERE INCREASED DEMAND, AS DETERMINED BY RULE, SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRICTS PRODUCTION OF COMMON FOOD PRODUCTS, that complies with ASTM D 975; or

These suggestions likely need crafting by those more familiar with precise legislative language, but I believe the intent is clear. Disaster lies ahead for all life on earth if we do not quickly control our behavior, a product of 4 billion years of evolution. Current behavior started new directions with a triple-singularity (course-change) in 1776. (1) Our Declaration of Independence was followed quickly by a Constitution that defined a new system of governance by WE THE PEOPLE, who don't always see well. (2) James Watt installed his first rotary steam engine, opening the vast energy source of fossil fuels, whose use is still accelerating. (3) Adam Smith published THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, defining capitalism, an unsustainable economic system based on perpetual growth. Wise representatives of the people are responsible to see that massive course correction is needed to enjoy a decent future. Some might claim that boating is not in the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Transportation, but the Act

of 1859 Admitting Oregon to the Union defined Oregons navigable waterways as
COMMON HIGHWAYS. Thank You!