



February 10, 2022

Representative Susan McLain and Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4141 - SUPPORT

Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 4141. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

While we have started our transition to electric vehicles of all types, Oregon's transportation sector is still responsible for 40 percent of our state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As we transition the medium- and heavy duty trucks, buses and other fleets on our roads to zero-emission vehicles, we have the opportunity to greatly reduce carbon emissions in the short-term by replacing our current diesel engines' diesel fuel to renewable diesel which helps to both, reduce GHG emissions and reduce air pollution.

While we have started our transition to electricity as a fuel, diesel engines make up the overwhelming majority of the trucks and buses on the road still. On our way to a zero emission future, we must be doing everything we can to reduce emissions and air pollution in the short term, and renewable diesel is a great way to do so:

- Medium and Heavy-Duty vehicles account for 42 percent of all GHGs from the on-road vehicle fleet. Switching to renewable diesel means we can dramatically reduce our GHG emissions in the trucking sector while we continue transitioning to zero emission vehicles.
- Renewable Diesel emits at least 60 percent less GHG than petroleum diesel depending on engine type.
- Renewable diesel can improve air quality compared to petroleum diesel because it emits less particulate matter and nitrous oxide (two harmful byproducts of diesel exhaust known to cause cancer, asthma, and other illnesses).
- Renewable Diesel is a "drop in" fuel meaning that we do not have to invest in new infrastructure or special vehicles to use this fuel and reap the benefits of it. All diesel engines can run on renewable diesel without needing special equipment.

A tremendous success story of renewable diesel use while transition to electric is TriMet. TriMet is Oregon's largest diesel consumer and has shifted to fueling all their diesel engine buses with a 99% renewable diesel blend. They are only buying zero-emission buses from now on and replacing old diesel buses year over year as well. In just six months, TriMet's switch to renewable diesel blend coupled with using renewable electricity to fuel their growing fleet of electric buses has cut the transit agency's emissions by 63%. With these two moves, ["TriMet expects to avoid more than 155 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions every year. That's the equivalent of taking more than 15,000 cars off the road."](#)

Please support HB 4141. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Victoria Paykar
Oregon Transportation Policy Manager