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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4141

BACKUP POWER GENERATORS FOR ELECTRICITY THAT RUN ON DIESEL will fail to startup.

This will gum-up of backup generators for emergency electric power supply, causing electricity interruptions to important machines in hospitals, and other critical facilities that rely on an uninterrupted power-supply of electricity, such as computer servers and COVID ventilators.

The small amount of bio-diesel that is currently being added to all Oregon diesel fuel now is causing gum-up problems of the engine fuel-pumps that sit for long periods of time without being started or without changing out the diesel stored in the supply tanks, resulting in startup failures. This means a diesel mechanic has to brought in and disassemble the fuel pump and rebuild those components, and a diesel truck has to come and drain the 100 gallon supply tank and another truck has to come and fill it up with fresh diesel. This is expensive, and for places such as hospitals for example, would be deadly during local power-grid failures during times such wind storms or the next ice-storm, like the one in Winter 2021.

Secondly, backup generators use diesel instead of gasoline. One reason is because of diesels stability to store for many months or years at a time without any degradation. Now that bio-diesel is being added, the small amount now, currently, this storage quality of diesel-fuel is diminished. What does this mean for backup power-generators for hospitals? It means they will have to refresh the tanks of diesel every few months, instead of every few years, OR it will result in computer-server downtime, and critical hospital equipment such as ventilators, and equipment during surgeries, to loose power. Can a surgeon be expected to stop in the middle of a 4-hour surgery because a tree blew over and knocked out the local power grid on that hospitals block of town?

What if you or someone you love happens to be in a hospital during that next unexpected power-outage? Will the diesel backup generator start on command? Or will it need a mechanic to come and do a fuel-pump rebuild for sitting too many months without being started? Or a tank of diesel that is too many months old that has taken on varnish-like qualities? Diesel engines, the fuel pumps components, are very sensitive to this. That is what bio-diesel does when its is not fresh. Meanwhile patients in the hospital who are unfortunate enough to be on machines or undergoing surgery at the time will likely be subject to a terrible fate, because the bio-diesel, from HB 4141, had gummed up the fuel pump seals and floats. It is a problem now, and

you want to make it worse?

Vote no on HB 4141, because you care about uninterrupted backup generators that run hospitals and important computer servers. Or maybe you have one of these at your home.

Regards, Bryan Schmidt