

Testimony

Re: HB 2426 "Relating to the dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids; declaring an emergency" House Committee on Emergency Mgmt, General Government and Veterans

- Legislators do not need to spend time trying to ease the labor shortage for **one** industry – gas stations.
- This is not an emergency.
- Oregon policies would not need to be patchwork if everything went back to normal – i.e., no self-serve. After all, that is the law. The pandemic is over.
- I don't agree with Rep. Julie Fahey that it is common sense to 'give consumers the choice.'
- It has not been proven that gasoline prices for consumers would go down if this measure goes into effect – and that's because they wouldn't. The gas station owners would simply make a bigger, quicker profit. That is the prime motivating factor behind this bill. Gas companies/stations charge whatever the market will bear. And if you require all tri-county area or western Oregon stations to offer both self-serve and attendant-pumped gas, the stations would still have to have employees, so they would not be saving money that way. As for difficulty finding employees, wait a little while longer: the federal emergency is ending in a few months, so benefits such as food stamps and rent assistance will be sunseting. When people get hungry, they will be more interested in working.
- The old arguments against self-serve gas still apply: what about people with disabilities? What about people who simply don't want to pump their own gas? Attendant gas will cost more than self-serve gas. **Can you guarantee that I will pay less for gas if this measure passes?** Of course not.
- I have in past years written to my legislative members opposing self-serve gas, but have never received any response.