

Submitter: Lynn Merrill
On Behalf Of: Acreage Land Solutions LLC
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB803

Please oppose SB 803. This is a poorly thought out, cart-before-the-horse bill that would be catastrophic for all Oregonians but especially farmers, foresters, construction and transportation. Diesel biofuel has a much bigger carbon footprint than understood when all inputs in its creation are considered, offering no material savings over petroleum based diesel. Growth and production of it displaces food production better suited to feeding our planet and native vegetation which that capture carbon. Based on our own company's tests it contains less energy per gallon, requiring more consumption. It also more water which results in algae growth in fuel systems that clog filters and damage diesel engine injectors. It shortens the life of engines too. Replacing those engines have carbon and financial costs exceeding any benefit. Finally, our current diesel engines are not designed to run on strait bio diesel; the engineering and modifications needed would be an unfunded mandate on citizens and vehicle manufacturers, if such a fix is even possible. Heavy machinery used in farming, forestry and construction in particular are incompatible with bio diesel. Many of these machines are designed to serve for decades and based on past fuel quality; replacing them would be prohibitively expensive and counter to carbon reduction goals. There are so many ways Oregon can lead in reducing carbon with lower costs - like streamlining safe, small nuclear, wind, solar, and retaining our hydro facilities. Also opening up to natural gas pipelines and sea ports were that gas would replace coal in production of electricity.