

March 2, 2022

Chair Janeen Sollman
Vice-Chair Lynn Findley
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: SB 803 ignores shortage of renewable diesel and potential supply chain challenges

Chair Sollman:

My name is Dan Hazelton and I work for Sherman Bros Trucking. Sherman Bros Trucking is a family-owned company that has been providing safe and reliable transportation services for over 50 years. We specialize in hauling building commodities, large equipment, and liquid bulk hazmat products in both our flatbed and tanker fleets. We provide OTR, regional, dedicated, and local opportunities. All of our personnel are known by name and treated like family.

Sherman Bros provides specialized services in the state of Oregon and nationwide. We employ over 50 personnel locally and 100 nationwide. This bill would be detrimental to our business and individuals who we employ.

I urge you to oppose SB 803, which would ban nearly all diesel fuels in Oregon.

While I recognize that this bill seeks to force a shift to renewable diesel, an exciting emerging alternative “drop in” fuel for Oregon trucking companies, the narrow nature of the mandate included in the bill, as well as the significant supply issues for renewable diesel, ignore the realities of implementing such a mandate.

SB 803 would ban the sale of petroleum diesel on a regional basis beginning in 2026 and encompassing the entire state by 2030 in an attempt to force the fuel industry to switch to renewable diesel as the fuel choice for all on-road diesel applications. While many Oregon carriers have been actively looking for supplies of renewable diesel, given it doesn't require expensive investment in new equipment and its use is only limited in extremely cold weather conditions, current supply does not meet that demand.

Renewable diesel supply shortages simply will not be improved in the three short years when this bill would go into effect. There is not currently enough renewable diesel available to meet Oregon's fuel demands and this bill will not send a “market signal,” so supply will somehow become available. Production of renewable diesel is limited, and to date Oregon DEQ has denied permitting a facility in our state.

(If applicable: Add a sentence here about challenges you have had finding adequate supply of renewable diesel)

Further, Oregon already provides incentives and regulations to drive a transition to more renewable transportation fuels. This effort has been accelerated by the Governor's Executive Order 20-02 and recent changes to the Clean Fuels Standard. SB 803 would create a duplicative program that would only add to the cost of product for Oregon consumers.

If SB 803 were to pass, fuel shortages would have a significant impact on Oregon's trucking industry and supply chains for all Oregon consumers. I ask you and your committee to oppose this short-sighted, dangerous proposal and vote no on SB 803.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Company)