

Submitter: Robin Bloomgarden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB803

I strongly support the premise of SB 803, but I am concerned about what the Renewable Diesel will be made out of! Will we be using up FOOD stocks, as we did with corn for Ethanol? Food corn was (genetically?) modified for this purpose and the result was not food anymore. Massive acreage of this stuff was taken away from the real food product. Or will they be using seed oils with the same negative result? I hope not.

Also, will we be creating good jobs making the Diesel here in Oregon, or just importing it from somewhere else, thus creating more traffic across our state, with no commensurate jobs?

Many of these opposing testimonies seem to think their trucks will be taken away, but the bill says that no modifications will be necessary. Many of them worry that supplies of the product will not be sufficient, but the Bill says, If the supply of renewable fuels available to Oregonians to be used as alternatives to petroleum diesel is insufficient to meet anticipated demand, the law is PAUSED for one year. It also says, If at any time the renewable diesel price exceeds the price of petroleum diesel for a specified number of days, the law is PAUSED for 90 days.

SB 803 has been carefully crafted to phase in the elimination of diesel fuel in Oregon, starting with the Portland Metro area, and eventually expanding to western and southern Oregon and then finally to eastern Oregon. Hopefully this would be enough time to ensure there are adequate supplies of renewable diesel to serve ALL of Oregon's needs.

These price and supply provisions GUARANTEE Oregonians that our economy will operate at a high level and lower costs while protecting our natural resources at the same time. We must do something to keep our state from turning brown and blowing or burning away before it is too late. This seems like a doable process, as long as it does not create other problems along the way.

I strongly support this bill, with reservations.