

Submitter: Pat DeLaquil

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB803

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley and members of the Committee

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 803. This bill will drive a more rapid reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the medium and heavy-duty transportation segment of Oregon's economy, by implementing a phased transition for on-road diesel fuel from petroleum diesel to low-carbon renewable diesel (RD),

We are encouraged to support this bill by the recent strong growth in the production of RD using feedstocks, such as waste oils, animal tallows and crop-based sources such as canola and soybean oils. In particular, the NEXT RD refinement plant presently in development at Port Westward will be able to process Oregon's entire demand for RD fuels in concert with the 2026-2030 timeline of the bill, which will facilitate delivery of RD to end users throughout Oregon and will also help reduce prices at the pump. And the bill is a clear remedy for solving the current distribution limitations expressed by some of the bill opponents.

We support an upper limit to the Carbon Intensity (CI) for RD under this bill, and we would like the bill to explicitly exclude palm oil feedstocks. Given that feedstock requirements are likely to include canola, soybean and perhaps other oil crop, we recommend that the Carbon Intensity calculations include updated calculations of indirect land use issues, such as the possibility of land degradation over time, feedstock substitution and other potential negative consequences of cultivating these energy crops.

We believe the Department of Energy is better suited to performing the market and supply studies described in section 4 of the bill, and that a better role for Department of Agriculture is to study the potential for the development of RD crops on Oregon lands, which leads to our final comment. We recommend that study components of House Bills 2826 and 2529, be incorporated into SB 803.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.