

March 23, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Chair Sollman & Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following testimony in opposition to SB 525.

The Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) represents approximately 950 districts across the state providing a wide array of services to the citizens of Oregon including fire and rescue, parks and recreation, drinking and wastewater services, and irrigation to name a few. SDAO and our members support efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and address our global climate change crisis, but SB 525 will hinder our member's ability to deliver services.

For example, our rural fire departments regularly use life-saving equipment that requires the use of small non-roadway engines that are being targeted by this measure and there are no adequate comparable replacements to that equipment. Chain saws, jaws of life, other types of saws, generators and similar equipment would be banned because of this measure, placing in jeopardy the lives of the citizens our first responders are sworn to protect.

Other equipment that is necessary for the maintenance, repair or replacement of critical infrastructure would also be banned because of this measure – thereby jeopardizing other critical services like safe drinking water, flood protection, the treatment of wastewater to name just a few.

Although well-intentioned, SB 525 would result in multiple challenges to our members in serving the citizens of Oregon and we ask that you reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Landauer
Special Districts Association of Oregon

