

Submitter: Denny Nielsen

On Behalf Of: Detroit City Council

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure: HB3260

Testimony HB 3260-2  
March 28, 2023

My name is Denny Nielsen and though I reside in Salem our family has owned property and recreated in Detroit since the late 1950's. I'm privileged to be a member of the Detroit City Council as the Commissioner of Commercial Reconstruction and a board member of the North Santiam Sewer Authority.

Shauna Edwards efforts to immediately rebuild River Runs Gas Station and provide a very important and fundamental service for our residents, recreational visitors and travelers has been critically important. We need to support Shauna's efforts and extend business hours of operation to facilitate the rebuilding of our residential and business community in Detroit by passing HB 3260-2.

My colleagues at the podium this afternoon have clearly articulated the need for passage of HB 3260-2 as it relates to safety, traveler convenience and the lack of available labor to support the operation of our service station.

Because of financial support from our elected representatives at the State Legislature, Congress and Marion County, Detroit is embarking on a visioning and planning exercise to guide our reconstruction activities. This process will define Detroit's business district in terms of design themes, best use and practices for available property and codes to guide business development. Additionally, we have several developers who will participate in our planning exercise, who are ready, willing, and able to execute on their visions for rebuilding our business community.

Having fuel available on an as need basis, is essential to support construction and similar local activities!

Factors to consider for approval of HB 3260-2:

1. Temporary sewer construction activities will accelerate dramatically in our business district which may take multiple years to complete. Construction of a permanent system will not likely be completed before 2027.
2. Construction of mixed-use businesses such as restaurants, motels, grocery stores, laundromat, workforce housing and specialty stores will require self-service fuel support for several years at a minimum.

3. Residential construction will continue to be robust for a decade or more with similar fuel requirements.
4. All construction activities will be affected by seasonality in terms of worked days per week and hours per day requiring access to self-service gasoline.

It is extremely important to have self-service fueling in Detroit for those who live, work, recreate and travel through our community. Please support the passage of HB 3260-2.

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for expanded fueling services in Detroit.