

Submitter: Rex Watkins
On Behalf Of: hard-working Oregonians
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

I offer support for HB3119 for the following reasons:

If Oregon moves ahead with its planned ban of diesel engines we will see increased costs to consumers of all products grown in Oregon and brought to Oregon.

"Delaying" the ban like this measure does gives us (Oregonians) more time to run the numbers on what those financial costs will be. Many who support the ban for climate change reasons (and other reasons) may not realize the absolute success story the reduction in pollution numbers has been for diesel engines over the last 20 years. Nothing short of amazing if you look at the Federal Government's numbers on the reduction of particulate and noxious chemicals.

Considering that so much material, both raw and unfinished product, are moved with diesel engines I wonder how the movement to ban them ever caught hold. There certainly isn't another technology ready to take the place of these powerhouses, neither in simplicity nor efficiency.

Then I had another thought, like so many things that are rare. If the sale of new diesel equipment is forbidden in Oregon, but we can continue to use the old stuff, are we not causing more problems with citizen safety (in/on old equipment) and lower efficiency (older stuff gets tired). Then again, when I need something for my company, and it isn't available here I go get it in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and Oklahoma. It's been a great way to see part of the country and keep our business moving forward. Would banning new diesels really solve a problem? Or create more problems? Might be better to get more data before making an emotional decision.