

Submitter: Heather Harter  
On Behalf Of: Klamath County Chamber  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and  
Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

On behalf of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce and the roughly 600 businesses we represent, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 3119, which would delay the implementation of certain motor vehicle emission rules in Oregon.

While we recognize the importance of environmental stewardship, the current regulations would impose significant hardships on industries vital to our local economy, including agriculture, construction, and the trades. These businesses rely on vehicles and equipment that cannot yet be feasibly or affordably replaced under the new mandates. The financial burden of compliance would disproportionately impact small businesses and rural communities, putting jobs and livelihoods at risk.

Additionally, Oregon's infrastructure is not yet equipped to support a rapid transition to electric vehicles, particularly in rural areas like Klamath County. The lack of charging stations, high costs of transition, and limited availability of compliant vehicles present serious challenges that must be addressed before such mandates take effect. Furthermore, diesel-powered equipment, which is heavily used in these industries, often provides superior fuel efficiency and longer range compared to many alternative options. For many businesses, replacing diesel-powered vehicles with electric alternatives would not only be cost-prohibitive but could also reduce operational efficiency.

For these reasons, we urge you to support House Bill 3119 to ensure that Oregon's environmental policies align with economic realities. A balanced, phased-in approach would allow businesses the time and resources necessary to adapt without causing undue harm to local economies.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if the Chamber can provide additional information.

Sincerely,  
Heather Harter  
Executive Director  
Klamath County Chamber of Commerce