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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Co-Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Joint Transportation Committee
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 20, 2025

The Honorable John Lively, State Representative
House Committee on Climate, Energy, Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Lively:

Thank you for hearing House Bill 3261 (HB 3261). This bill, with the -1 amendment, provides us an instrument for exploring the utility and environmental value of Renewable Diesel (RD) as a primary tool for significantly reducing carbon emissions from heavy trucks and other diesel-powered equipment throughout the State of Oregon.

The task force outlined in the bill would bring stakeholders together to assess our current situation, review alternative options for accelerating the availability of RD on a sustainable statewide basis, and make recommendations for action in the coming Legislative Sessions. Ideally, the outcome would expand awareness of RD, encourage private and public investments, provide insight for agencies (ideas for cutting red tape), and facilitate greater production, distribution, and usage.

RD is not a panacea. However, given the recent energy priority changes at the federal level, it provides us with an outstanding “backup” plan. RD is the most rational, reasonable, and responsible “bridge” fuel for certain and specific types of vehicles available. It does not require new equipment, it lasts (can be stored) longer than traditional petroleum-based diesel, and it can be made from commodities grown in Oregon. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), fleet maintainers, and high-volume users swear by the product because of its lack of a negative impacts upon the engine and gear.

Oregon must continue forward. Some day we must realize a true zero emissions transportation system. Until then, we must seize upon interim steps that make measurable gains toward our end goals. This task force could serve a vital role in framing the opportunities and enumerating our priorities for action. I urge your support for HB 3621 with the -1s.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize my gratitude for your interest in this measure. Please let me know if you have questions or require additional information. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,