

Submitter: Cassie Wilson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5538

Good morning co-chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the committee,

My name is Cassie Wilson, I'm a resident of Portland, and I'm here to speak in favor of POP #102 to fund staffing to enforce the self-serve gas laws.

As a disabled person, I need someone else to pump my gas. A lot of the gas stations in the city have poorly labeled which pumps are self-serve and which are staffed, to where you can't see the label and know until you're at the pump – this is made more difficult by how small these lots are to navigate when busy.

I'm not sure if I just got lucky when I was living in Boring that all of the gas stations out there were regularly and sufficiently staffed, but ever since moving to Portland that has not been the case.

The first time I tried to get gas in Portland, I waited in line for long enough to realize that I didn't see a single gas station attendant working outside. It was really busy and I worried that I'd get to the pump only to not have help. I decided to go to another gas station down the road. It wasn't nearly as busy, but when I pulled up to the full-serve gas pump, no one ever came to help. There are no signs about honking if you need assistance because the pumps are labeled, so it's assumed that staff would be attending to them. At this point my tank was nearly empty so I had no choice but to get gas there.

I realized I'd need to get out of the car and walk to the service booth to request help. I waited in line with people who were paying cash or buying tobacco products. There was only one staff member running the whole gas station, so they're completely unable to serve the 50% of pumps as required by law. Since then, I've avoided getting gas in the city and I generally try to avoid getting gas when I'm alone.

I should be able to get gas as easily and independently as I was before this law went into effect and as I am able to at gas stations that are in compliance with the law. I shouldn't be driving around on empty to find someone who can help me, especially when it means ending up at a more expensive gas station.

Please provide the funding necessary to enforce this law and protect my rights guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thank you.