



350PDX  
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Portland, OR 97227  
350pdx.org

February 20, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair B. Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

350PDX opposes HB 3261.

For over a decade, [350PDX](https://www.350pdx.org) has been working to build a movement for climate justice in the greater Portland metro area. We have hundreds of active volunteers with a base of thousands, all who support our work to fight for just solutions to the climate crisis. On behalf of our organization, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 3261, which seeks to study incentives for increasing the availability of renewable diesel. While we support efforts to transition away from fossil fuels, we have significant concerns regarding the safety, pollution impacts, and environmental consequences of so-called "renewable" diesel.

Renewable diesel is often marketed (by the fossil fuel industry) as a cleaner alternative to traditional fossil fuels, but its production and use can still contribute to substantial carbon emissions, air pollution, and negative environmental outcomes. The feedstocks used for renewable diesel, such as industrial agriculture products and waste oils, can have detrimental land use consequences, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and increased competition for arable land that could otherwise support sustainable food production.

We are also concerned about the safety risks of transporting "renewable" diesel. When transported by rail, there is not enough data to show any meaningful decrease in the likelihood of explosions. Even if companies were able to transition fully from traditional petroleum to other sources, the transporting of any liquid fuel by rail continues to be a dangerous hazard for all who live within a mile or more radius of train traffic, otherwise known as the "blast zone."

By prioritizing incentives for this fuel, Oregon risks perpetuating reliance on combustion-based energy rather than pursuing systemic changes that will meaningfully reduce emissions, reduce safety risks, and promote environmental justice. We urge the Oregon Legislature to focus on policies that accelerate the transition toward non-combustion-based energy solutions that align with our state's climate commitments.

We urge you to reject HB 3261. Instead, we encourage legislative efforts that invest in long-term, sustainable solutions that will ensure a healthier and more equitable future for all Oregonians.

Thank you,

Dineen O'Rourke Crowe,  
Campaign Manager, 350PDX

Building the climate justice movement.