

OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in support of POP 102

February 21st, 2025

Thank you, Chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety for consideration of this testimony. I am writing to express my support for the Oregon State Fire Marshall's priority Policy Option Package (POP) 102.

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature changed our state's long-standing statewide tradition of full-service gas stations. <u>HB 2426</u> (2023) expanded self-service fueling to statewide in response to post-pandemic workforce challenges, voter sentiment, and common practice in rural Oregon.

At the time, I was concerned that seniors and people with disabilities could be unfairly impacted but was encouraged by the protections included in the bill. Despite the provisions for those still needing full service, I have heard personally of businesses across the State that are not in compliance with Section 8 of the law requiring filling stations to provide **equal access**. <u>HB</u> 2426 (2023) tasked the Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) with enforcement of the law, however, did not provide the agency with the necessary funding to ensure adequate enforcement.

I am asking this Subcommittee to accept POP 102 requesting \$300,000 from the general fund for 1 position at 0.88 FTE as an investment priority this Session. We decided to move away from the ban on self-serve because that is what most Oregonians wanted. But we didn't do that so that thousands of Oregonians truly in need of full-service would be left without assistance. POP 102 gives OSFM the resources they need to ensure fueling stations around the State are fulfilling their promise. I urge you to pass POP 102.

Respectfully,

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Representative Farrah Chaichi House District 35, Beaverton & Aloha