

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
RE: Support of HB 3261  
DATE: February 21st, 2025

Dear Chair Representative John Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

My name is Dulasi Tennakoon, a senior undergraduate majoring in Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics in Willamette University, and I am writing to express my strong **support** for House Bill 3261. As an undergraduate student residing in Oregon, I have noticed the state making significant strides in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but transportation remains one of the largest sources of pollution. We need solutions that are **both practical and economically viable**. This bill ensures that Oregon has the research and policy framework needed to expand renewable diesel use effectively.

Depending on the source materials, renewable diesel can **cut lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by up to 85%** compared to conventional diesel. Unlike biodiesel, renewable diesel is **fully compatible with existing diesel engines**, meaning we can start seeing emissions reductions right away without the need for fleet or infrastructure modifications. A transition to renewable diesel isn't just good for the environment, **it's good for Oregon's economy**. The NEXT Renewable Fuels refinery in Columbia County, is expected to produce 765 million gallons annually and **create 285 jobs with average wages and benefits of \$91,000**. Supporting research into renewable diesel will help expand job opportunities in Oregon's growing clean energy sector while ensuring that state policies continue to attract investment in sustainable fuel production. Oregon is **already seeing a shift** in diesel usage, but without proper planning, we risk falling behind in the transition. HB 3261 provides the necessary framework to study the market, evaluate supply chains, and ensure Oregon is prepared for the future of clean transportation.

While the benefits of renewable diesel (such as reduced emissions and compatibility with existing infrastructure) are clear, a comprehensive study is needed to assess availability, market demand, supply chain challenges, and the effectiveness of existing incentives. Renewable diesel works, **let's study it right**. A **task force** will bring together experts, industry leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders to provide data-driven recommendations, helping Oregon **avoid policy gaps, maximize economic benefits, and ensure a smooth transition to cleaner fuels**.

**Without this structured approach, the state risks falling behind** in sustainable energy policy and missing key opportunities for investment and innovation.

**Smart policy starts with good research – Support HB 3261!**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dulasi Tennakoon  
Student, Oregon Resident