

Text for email or phone call in support of HB 4141: Renewable Fuels

Dear [Sen/Rep.] [Prozanski or Hayden]:

I am a constituent of yours who lives in Cottage Grove. I urge your support of HB 4141 **with the qualifications described below.**

I am concerned by the enormous toll fossil fuel-driven climate change is already exacting from our state, including a 10-fold increase in the area burned by forest fires between 2010 and 2020, from 120,000 acres annually to 1.2 million acres in 2020. The transportation sector alone accounts for about 40% of the total statewide greenhouse gas emissions that are causing these explosive fire conditions. Thus, reducing the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere by fossil fuel-burning vehicles is essential if we are to succeed at bringing greenhouse gas emissions under control.

I support the general objective of replacing fossil diesel fuel with renewable diesel by 2029 in order to achieve this goal, and applaud the drafters for having excluded palm oil as a source of renewable diesel because of its primary use as a food source. However, the final bill needs to go further: The bill should also exclude soy oil because this is a major ingredient in the human food supply that has already risen 91% in price during the last two years. Other edible oils (e.g., corn, flax, canola) should also be excluded if their price rises faster than CPI. Excluding edible oils is essential to avoid shifting the burden of fuel transition to low income households that are already struggling to meet their grocery bills.

Proponents of the bill acknowledge that these concerns are justified. According to them, sufficient volumes of renewable diesel can be produced from wood waste from logging and wood products, vegetation that lacks existing commercial uses, and other waste streams.

Accordingly, I urge that the bill be amended to exclude soy oil, and that a price trigger in the order of 1.2 times the Consumer Price Index be set to require that other edible oils (e.g., corn, canola, flax) be excluded to ensure that demand for such edible oils as motor fuels do not contribute to domestic and global food insecurity. So amended, I heartily support the bill and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

[your name, signature and organizational affiliation]