

Howdy,

This is to address House bill 2482.

We live in Fields located in southeast Harney County, and own the The Fields Station there is one fuel island and two fuel dispensers one unleaded gasoline and the other highway diesel. The business has the only reliable fuel for 85 miles both north and south from here. Business hours are 8am-6pm Monday-Saturday and 9am-5pm Sunday. We have seven employees nine months out of the year and pay them above the current minimum wage. If the bill passes we have no intention of laying off any employees. Passage of HB-2482 will allow us to concentrate on the other services we provide. IE the café, hotel rooms, c-store, RV park, beer bar and state liquor store. Our experience after almost 13 years is that out of state residents are very capable of dispensing their fuel and the majority of Oregonians delight in being able to if we are swamped. All though against the law, we would tell them we hired them on the spot, for very poor wages, which would then make them qualified fuel attendants. But Oregon still harbors some real dummies, because of the antiquated law. I can't say we are perfect, on several occasions, because of being swamped with other duties, there have been vehicles miss fueled, gas in a diesel rig and vice versa. That screw-up falls on the business owners to correct, which can be quite expensive. With self service, dispensing the wrong fuel into a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle is then responsible

One other consequence of having fuel attendants is that the workers comp premium is higher for that classification of work, we have been told, because of the potential for that individual to be hit by a vehicle. Thus causing more serious injuries, so lets let the private individuals and their insurance companies figure out what to do if they run over each other. While they fuel their own vehicles

Now on some personnel experiences, which by happenstance have occurred at Fred Meyer fueling stations in Caldwell, Idaho and Bend Oregon. The Caldwell experience is the way it should be in Oregon, no lines at the fuel islands, cash or credit card transactions are fast and simple. Now Bend is TOTAL different story, certain times, lines of vehicles idling away wasting fuel and polluting the air waiting on an attendant and cash transactions take extra time because of the third person involved. Also at Bend I had some five gallon containers to fill, the attendant spilled fuel on the out side of all four containers because of not paying attention.

Thanks,

Thomas E Downs.