

Submitter: Keith Wilson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Measure: HB3409

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the committee, my name is Keith Wilson, and I am the president and CEO of TITAN Freight Systems.

I am here today to voice my strong support for the Climate Action Package and urge you to vote YES.

Now, more than ever, it is important for our legislature to make strategic investments and utilize unprecedented federal and private matching opportunities to supercharge our economy by not only adding white and blue-collar jobs but thousands of green-collar jobs, jobs that will improve the quality of our environment by reducing waste and pollution.

Specifically, included in this legislation is funding for heavy-duty electric truck rebates that will speed the transition away from petroleum diesel and research that will turn low-value woody biomass that is currently being burned and will instead convert it into high-value biofuels of tomorrow.

Transitioning our economy away from petroleum diesel and the burning of our woody biomass will help reduce the two largest contributors of black carbon in Oregon.

When this transition is realized and because black carbon has a short life span and dissipates in one to six weeks, it will immediately begin to reduce premature snowmelt, drought, and local warming.

When can we expect this transition to begin?

I have good news to share.

The electrification of Oregon's medium and heavy-duty delivery fleets has begun.

Freightliner, which is based in Oregon and is our nation's largest heavy-duty truck manufacturer, notified me that, in two weeks, they will be delivering the first trucks in my order of six new medium and heavy-duty all-electric vehicles.

By next month, these zero-tailpipe emission vehicles will be making deliveries in your communities. These will be the first in Oregon.

The funding of this Climate Action Package will ensure this transition continues without pause.

Thank you for the privilege of presenting this information to you today.