

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Rob Wagner President of the Senate S-201 State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Dan Rayfield Speaker of the House H-269 State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re:

House Bill 2426

Dear President Wagner and Speaker Rayfield,

Today, I am signing House Bill 2426. I write to express concerns regarding enforcement of the new law.

House Bill 2426 passed with bipartisan support and is an issue of great interest across the state. My office received more than 5,000 comments from Oregonians about the bill since its passage, with a narrow majority of comments supporting my signature.

While the legislative record and public discourse highlighted several merits of the bill, I have concerns about potential unintended negative consequences for individuals who want or need assistance from an attendant. Top of mind are persons with disabilities and senior citizens who may need to remain in their vehicles. House Bill 2426 provided complaint-based enforcement, which puts the onus on impacted individuals to report violations of the new law. Once a complaint is made to the Oregon State Fire Marshal, the enforcement process is unclear. Widespread violation of the service attendant provision would undermine the intent of the law, which is to provide Oregonians with options at the gas pump.

I encourage legislators and stakeholders to address this concern and explore strengthening the complaint and enforcement process in the 2024 Session.

Sincerely

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Representative Shelly Boshart Davis

Representative Julie Fahey Senator Daniel Bonham Senator Janeen Sollman