



Testimony RE: SB 488 by Craig Campbell, Representing AAA Oregon before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on March 20, 2013

Madam Chair, members of the committee:

For the record my name is Craig Campbell and I am representing AAA Oregon in opposition to SB 488.

AAA's position on the bill is a difficult one. AAA supports efforts to reduce the impact on the environment resulting from transportation emissions. Furthermore we understand the need to be aspirational in our goals as often that approach provides the needed push to overcome unreasoned intransigence that unnecessarily prevents progress.

On the other hand, there is always a concern regarding un-tempered enthusiasm in pursuing detailed application of aspirational goals. That concern arises from mistaking legitimate concerns as foundless dogmatic political opposition.

This body directed the Department of Environmental Quality to develop rules for a low carbon fuel standard and to come back before this body with a workable solution. This body gave a deadline of 2015 for that process. As you know, sunsets are the legislature's way of lighting a fire to get people to act and they are also a means of maintaining legislative oversight.

The initial charge given by the legislature has not been completed. The Department has not returned with workable fuel standards that the public will support. There is no question that the program has proven to be both troubling and complicated. Therefore we do not believe it is appropriate to remove the sunset at this point. Removing the sunset is an attempt to subvert those original instructions. The low carbon fuel standard is sufficiently complicated and politically charged to make sure that it continues to be openly discussed here in the people's forum of the Legislative Assembly. Six years is certainly sufficient time for DEQ to return to the legislature with actual fully developed rules so that Legislators can assess its feasibility and necessity

It is for this reason that AAA opposes SB 488

Thank you.

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