

SB 488
Emily Ackland
Environmental Policy Manager
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I am here on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties speaking in support of SB 488, which would remove the sunset on the Clean Fuels Program, first adopted in 2009.

Counties are continuing to look for ways to grow Oregon's economy. The list of businesses and organizations that support Oregon's efforts in this regard are plentiful. We want to continue to enable more businesses in the renewable fuels sector to expand or invest newly in Oregon. Removing the sunset on the Clean Fuels Program will send the message to the industry that Oregon wants their business into the future. The current sunset (2015) is a disincentive.

We believe that since many "clean" fuels are cheaper than oil, are becoming more plentiful, and are likely to benefit rural Oregon with new business opportunities, such as the utilization of biomass and its conversion to renewable fuel, this is an important next step in our pursuit for locally developed energy. Counties want to see healthy forests and to put people in the woods back to work. Utilizing biomass from our forests, for fuels or thermal energy, is a win for us all.

The Clean Fuels Program is an economic development tool. Counties support the continuation of the state's work on the Program to create jobs, support existing businesses, and bring new employers into Oregon. SB488 and the removal of the sunset on the Program is a crucial step.