



April 2, 2013

Oregon Senate Business & Transportation Committee

SB 583

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today. It is an honor that I do not take lightly. My name is Randy Camp and I run CoEnergy Propane. CoEnergy is an Oregon owned and operated company with offices in Corvallis and in Redmond. We have a total of 15 employees that take care of Oregonians along the coast from Lincoln City to Reedsport, in the Willamette Valley from Salem to Cottage Grove, and a large portion of Central Oregon. CoEnergy has operated in Oregon for 13 years, handling Oregonians' propane needs, providing jobs and working hard to help Oregon's economy grow.

I also sit on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Propane Gas Association, which includes Oregon, as well as Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. I also sit on the advisory committee of Linn Benton Community College and their new Advanced Transportation Center, being built in Lebanon, opening with its first classes in the fall of 2013. This center will be training students on alternative energies, not only propane, but CNG, LNG, electric, bio-diesel, and hydrogen on how they work as a fuel for vehicles as well as how to fix and maintain vehicles that run on these fuels. This is the first teaching facility of this kind in the Pacific Northwest and one of only a couple in the western United States.

I'm here to speak to you in favor of SB 583, which I believe is good legislation that helps us cut our need for foreign oil. This bill also helps improve our economy with new jobs and in some cases, lower cost fuel, while decreasing our carbon footprint. By providing low costs loans for the conversion of public fleets to alternative fuels, SB 583 helps Oregon's environment and economy while cutting the need for foreign oil. This is a win – win no matter how you look at it.

As I stated to you before, CoEnergy Propane is a small Oregon owned and operated company and one of our goals is to help the people of Oregon keep their energy dollars right here in Oregon. CoEnergy Propane has made the commitment to help Oregon move from expensive foreign oil to more economical and environmentally friendly propane Autogas as an alternative to gasoline as well as an enhancement to diesel fuel, reducing the amount of diesel consumed. We have not only stepped up in support of LBCC's new venture, we have also made the commitment to hire and train personnel that will be doing the conversions from gasoline to less expensive propane and the propane enhancement of diesel engines for the people of Oregon. The savings generated by SB 583 will help ease the pain for budget cutbacks occurring all across the state. These saving may even help reverse the trend and help restore services that may have been cut.

This bill will improve our economy and environment at little cost to taxpayers. I firmly believe that if you vote in support of this bill and allow all alternative fuels to stand on their own merits, the benefits returned will be beneficial to all of Oregon.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to speak before this Committee. Please vote "yes" on SB 583.

Randy Camp
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