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## Testimony to the Business and Transportation Committee on Senate Bill 583

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 583.

Diversifying our transportation sector is important for retaining energy dollars in Oregon, creating jobs, and lowering greenhouse gases and other air pollution. SB 583, which creates a revolving loan fund for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles that emit fewer tailpipe emissions, would further that transition and compliment another policy, the Clean Fuels Program (SB 488), which OEC strongly supports.

SB 583 creates funding for vehicles while SB 488 would lift a sunset on a program that aids the development of the fueling and distribution infrastructure needed to power these vehicles. We see these policies as being two sides of the same coin.

The benefits of cleaner vehicles and fuels are numerous:

- **They dramatically reduce pollution.** Transportation emissions contribute to unhealthy air that exacerbates heart and lung illnesses, cancer, and now is linked to autism.
- **They save consumers money.** Cleaner fuels are competitive or cost advantageous to gasoline and diesel. These lower cost fuels save consumers money, even if a vehicle has higher upfront costs. Alternative fuel vehicles also often have lower maintenance costs. Cleaner fuels have lower wear and tear on engines, and in the case of electric vehicles, fewer moving parts and eliminate the need for oil changes.
- **They enhance U.S. and Oregon energy security.** Many alternative fuel vehicles utilize fuels that are sourced in the U.S. or right here in Oregon.
- **They create jobs and economic activity.** Building out the infrastructure to support a wide range of alternative fuel vehicles will create jobs.

SB 583 is a responsible, common sense approach to financing alternative fuel vehicles for public fleets. The loan program would support a wide range of fuels, rather than picking winners and losers.

OEC strongly encourages your support for this program.