

To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
From: Main Street Alliance of Oregon Small Businesses
Date: April 24, 2013
Re: Letter in Support of -4 Amendments to SB306

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a coalition of more than 1200 small businesses across Oregon, supports a clean air fee and the -4 amendments to SB 306.

Putting a fee on substances we don't want, like pollutants, not only will help to protect our environment, it creates new revenue streams that could allow greater investment in Oregon's economy and offset existing business and personal taxes.

We've seen a similar system work in British Columbia. There, communities have been able to grow their economy while reducing pollution.

We feel that a fee that starts at a reasonable rate to allow for a smooth transition, but increases steadily and predictably over time is the best way to implement such a system. This allows for all affected to ease into compliance, and plan for better for the future.

The fee collected can be dispersed to allow for more positive economic growth; a portion should be returned to households, especially low and moderate income households who spend a greater share of their income on energy, a portion of the fee should be used to offset existing taxes on businesses.

The bottom line is Oregon should use revenue to invest in new technologies and sustainability. Investing in programs that work—like sustainable and efficient energy—will help us reduce carbon emissions at the lowest possible cost while creating jobs that will stimulate our economic growth.

As Main Street small business owners in Oregon, we care deeply about our local communities, including our environment. Without a clean and healthy environment, our businesses, economy, and communities all over our state would suffer.

That's why we are in support of the -4 amendments to SB 306, and making sure that we can all enjoy a clean, energy efficient future in Oregon.

Yours respectfully,



Jim Houser, co-chair
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland



Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair
BrainJoy LLC, Medford