

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Support of Senate Bill 488
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
March 18, 2013**



Chair Dingfelder and members of the Committee:

As you know, Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area. The voters of the region created Metro specifically to address urban issues that are regional in nature rather than local and to deal with challenges that cross city and county lines. In practice, many of those issues have to do with the environment and the economy.

In 2008, our region agreed on a set of six desired outcomes that together define successful communities.¹ One of those desired outcomes is that the region is a leader in minimizing contributions to climate change. Another is that current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.

Last year, Metro supported the Environmental Quality Commission's adoption of rules for the first phase of the Clean Fuels Program. We agreed with the collaborative approach established in the rules:

The Oregon Clean Fuels Program will reduce Oregon's contribution to the global levels of greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of those emissions in Oregon, in concert with other greenhouse gas reduction policies and actions by local governments, other states and the federal government. (OAR 340-253-0000 (1))

Today, I would like to express the Metro Council's support for SB 488, which will repeal the program's statutory sunset and enable implementation of the next phase of the program. We believe the Clean Fuels Program aligns with Metro's plans and programs:

- Metro is currently carrying out the Climate Smart Communities project at the direction of the Oregon Legislature. The project is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles. The project assumes significant changes in vehicles and technologies, including fuels, in order to meet statutory emission reduction targets.
- Metro's plans are consistent with Governor Kitzhaber's 10-Year Energy Plan, the State Transportation Strategy, and the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Roadmap to 2020, all of which anticipate the use of lower carbon fuels.
- Metro is committed to improving the sustainability of our regional solid waste system. The Clean Fuels program is expected to increase incentives to develop clean bio-fuels (e.g., bio-diesel from organic wastes) and to provide opportunities to transition solid waste vehicles from conventional fuels (e.g., diesel) to renewable and cleaner fuels (e.g., compressed natural gas).

The repeal of the sunset will provide assurance to investors in low carbon fuels production and transportation infrastructure that Oregon is committed to a clean fuels future.

The Metro Council believes SB 488 supports our region's desired outcomes for successful communities, including clean air and water and minimizing contributions to climate change.

We urge you to pass SB 488.

¹ The Portland metropolitan region's six desired outcomes:

- **Vibrant communities:** People live and work in vibrant communities where they can choose to walk for pleasure and to meet their everyday needs.
- **Economic prosperity:** Current and future residents benefit from the region's sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.
- **Safe and reliable transportation:** People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.
- **Leadership on climate change:** The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.
- **Clean air and water:** Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems.
- **Equity:** The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably.