

AFSCME Local 3336

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March 18, 2013

Chair Dingfelder and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 488. AFSCME Local 3336 is a union of environmental workers. We support programs that would improve land, air and water quality, because we believe a clean environment is not just an irreplaceable public resource, but essential to citizens' health and safety. In addition, as a labor organization, our evaluation of environmental legislation must also consider potential economic effects on working people's lives.

Weighing both potential environmental and economic outcomes of a Clean Fuels Program in Oregon, AFSCME Local 3336 supports Senate Bill 488, which would eliminate the December 2015 sunset on program implementation.

In the coming decades, climate change may be more economically devastating than most of us can imagine. Reducing greenhouse gases emitted from fuel processing, transport, and burning can only lessen those eventual climatic and economic consequences. In the near-term, we see the potential investment in Oregon businesses, new technology and in-state fuel production as an economic benefit.

We don't believe the Clean Fuels Program is a cure-all; We would prefer that the program include a sustainability measure to control for potentially increasing food prices. We are also concerned about water quality degradation that may result from agricultural fuel production. But, we are reassured that, at least, the current law requires DEQ to defer or eliminate program requirements if fuel prices increase or supply decreases.

Overall, we believe eliminating the December 2015 sunset and allowing the Clean Fuels Program to build on past investments will benefit the health and economic well-being of Oregon's citizens. We join Oregon AFSCME in supporting SB 488. Thank you, again, for hearing our testimony.

Respectfully,

Karen Font Williams
President, AFSCME 3336

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