

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Support of House Bill 4107
House Committee on Energy and Environment
February 11, 2014**



Chair Bailey 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.

HB 4107 supports these desired outcomes by expanding the opportunity for more vehicles to use less polluting and less carbon-intensive alternative fuels.

Metro is currently conducting a project at the direction of the Oregon Legislature (in the 2009 Jobs and Transportation Act) that is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. This project, known as Climate Smart Communities, assumes significant changes in vehicles and technologies, including fuels, in order to meet statutory emission reduction targets. By providing incentives for fleet owners to shift to alternative fuels, HB 4107 can help our region achieve the required reductions.

Metro also manages the regional solid waste system, and we are committed to improving the sustainability of that system. Reducing the diesel emissions of privately owned refuse and recycling vehicles by increasing the use of alternative fuels will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health, especially among children and the elderly who are most at risk for asthma and other respiratory problems.

Last session, Metro supported SB 249 which broadened the availability of federal funds for use on diesel emission reduction projects. HB 4107 can provide further opportunities to transition solid waste vehicles from conventional fuels (e.g., diesel) to renewable and cleaner fuels (e.g., compressed natural gas).

We urge you to pass HB 4107. Thank you for considering these comments.

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.