

Testimony of Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (SD-30)

SB 324

February 2, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards and members of the committee,

Oregon has been implementing “climate friendly” energy policies for three decades. We are one of the lowest emitting states in the U.S. (only 0.68% of carbon emissions) because we have access to a low-carbon resource: water. 94% of our power comes from hydropower, natural gas or wind.

Per capita, we are in the top five states for lowest carbon emissions.

So why do we need SB 324?

We know that the Low Carbon Fuel Standard disproportionately hurts low-income families, senior citizens and rural Oregonians. We know that it will raise gas prices – even the DEQ admits that. And this hidden gas tax was sold as a way to reduce carbon emissions, when in practice fuel producers don’t have to lower the carbon content of their fuels – they just have to pay to play.

Both sides of the aisle claim to believe creating family-wage jobs and helping rural Oregon should be top priorities. But SB 324 will hurt those same Oregonians – those outside of Portland who do not have access to public transportation, have to drive long distances to get to work or school, and cannot afford an expensive, fuel-efficient vehicle to offset the higher prices at the pump.

I will be extremely disappointed if my colleagues bring SB 324 to the floor. It is bad policy and very bad for Oregon.



REPUBLICAN OBSTRUCTIONISM?