



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 2, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Chuck Thomsen
beth.reiley@state.or.us

Re: SB 324 – Oregon’s Clean Fuel Standard: SUPPORT

From: Robin Wisdom, President LWVOR
Claudia Keith, Climate Change Portfolio

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since the 1970’s, the League has advanced a broad national program urging that we avoid the depletion of natural resources and manage the interrelated aspects of air, water, land use, energy and waste management. In the last 15 years, the League has lobbied for conservation of fossil fuel based resources and controlling the pollution associated with these resources: to preserve the ecosystem for future generations and to protect public health.

The League supports SB 324, a bill that removes the sunset ending Oregon’s Clean Fuels Program at the end of 2015. Removing the sunset would allow the Department of Environmental Quality to continue to focus on the acquisition of cleaner fuels. Provisions allowing the use of all types of low carbon fuels to meet the low carbon fuel standards, including but not limited to biofuels, biogas, compressed natural gas, gasoline, diesel, hydrogen and electricity;

Ultimately, the Clean Fuels Program is designed to reduce the life-cycle emissions of carbon from the fuel used in Oregon’s transportation system so as to delay or reduce the negative impacts of global climate change and to reduce other emitted pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOC’s).

The League supports the removal of the sunset because the bill contains sensible Consumer Protections (limiting price inflation to 4%). In addition, production in Oregon should increase the availability of fuels and the resilience of the supply system during times when the Washington State refineries are down for repairs or preventative maintenance.

Oregon’s Clean Fuel Program anticipates creating 20-29,000 new jobs, according to Jack Faucett and Associates. This could grow personal income as much as \$2.6 billion.

Additionally, the League supports clean fuels that reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, the cause of dozens of health problems such as asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. These health problems disproportionately affect children, the elderly, low-income communities, and communities of color. They also take people out of the workforce and run up health care expenses, with asthma alone costing Oregon millions in hospital visit.

Oregon has an opportunity to take advantage of West Coast regional opportunities. California and British Columbia already have successful clean fuel programs in place as part of thriving clean economies. Washington is poised to move ahead with a program of its own. Oregon should be part of the developing West Coast clean fuels corridor. If we remain on the sidelines, opportunities and investments will pass us by.

The League urges the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee to advance SB 324 from Committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

Cc: Dick Pedersen, Director Department of Environmental Quality
Richard Whitman, Natural Resources Policy Director