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Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
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January 29, 2015

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Esteemed Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources:

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce opposes SB 324 because it will negatively impact our businesses and our community.

SB 324 represents a gas tax. It will increase the cost of fuel significantly. This means less disposable income for our residents to spend at our local businesses. It also means fewer people in our hotels, restaurants, and shops as travel costs increase.

Our ability to attract tourists also depends on good and safe highways and roads. Usually, gas tax money is dedicated to highway and road construction and maintenance. SB 324 will increase fuel costs with no money going to roads and highways. We are also very concerned that it will compromise road funding not only now, but well into the future as Oregonians become increasingly price sensitive and reject gas taxes.

We don't see any economic benefits to our businesses and community as a result of SB 324. The only possibility we see is that it will be yet another blow to our local economy.

Please let the Oregon Clean Fuels Program expire. Please oppose SB 324.

Sincerely,

Jason Brandt, Chief Executive Officer
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce