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February 20, 2015

Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Dear Chair Edwards & Members of the Committee,

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce opposes SB 324 because it will negatively impact our region, industry, 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. 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. 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 VOTE no on SB 324.

Sincerely,

Joe Franell  
Chairman

Art Kegler  
Hermiston Government Affairs Team

Debbie Pedro  
President/CEO