



Chamber of Commerce

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February 23, 2015

House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Dear Chair Vega Pederson & Members of the Committee,

The Heppner 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.

Please remember that the economic growth that many are celebrating in Oregon has not reached all corners of the state. Our rural economies are fragile and can't afford new cost burdens while we are still trying to recover. SB 324 in no way helps our local economy. The only possibility we see is that SB 324 will be another obstacle for a local economic recovery. Please let the Oregon Clean Fuels Program expire.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Bates
Executive Director

