

TIGARD AREA



Where Business Soars!

Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce
12345 SW Main Street
Tigard, OR 97223
503-639-1656

February 20, 2015
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Dear Chair Pederson & Members of the Committee,

The Tigard Chamber of Commerce has taken a position in opposition to renewing the Clean Fuels Program. We oppose Senate Bill 324. Our local community and businesses are only now starting to enjoy the benefits of lower fuel prices. More disposable income is a very good thing for our businesses and our community.

We are opposed to SB 324 because it will result in fuel prices going back up as a result of the regulations. Our Chamber understands that the "success" of the Clean Fuels program requires that gas prices go up significantly. This is not good for our community. It means less disposable income, especially for low income residents. It means less spending in our local businesses. All of this will have a negative impact on jobs in our community.

The Oregon DEQ projects that gasoline prices will increase between 6 and 19 cents per gallon under the LCFS. Other studies show that the price will be much greater, and that job losses will be significant. This will undermine any potential for economic recovery in our community.

Finally, our chamber is a strong proponent of investing in better roads and transportation infrastructure.

Traditionally, an increase in fuel taxes translates into more needed road and transportation projects. But under SB 324, none of the money from the increased fuel costs will go toward fixing and improving our roads. Furthermore, if SB 324 is successful, it will compromise the appetite for Oregonians to support taxes for transportation infrastructure well into the future.

The Tigard Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to vote 'no' on SB 324. We see no positive outcomes to our community as a result of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Mollahan
CEO, Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce