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February 24, 2015

TO: Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

FR: Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: Support of SB 324

On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon supports SB 324. This bill will remove the December 2015 sunset on the Clean Fuels Program, resulting in 10 percent less carbon pollution from transportation fuels over ten years.

Oil dependence takes an enormous bite out of our paychecks and our economy. But that is only a fraction of the true cost of our addiction to oil. We pay with our lungs every time we inhale toxic chemicals released from burning oil. We also pay with our beaches, coasts and oceans. From the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in 2010 that dumped 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico to the ExxonMobil pipeline spill that dumped 42,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River in 2011, enough is enough.

We must drive toward a future of less carbon intensive fuels if we hope to mitigate the rising threat of global warming. The effects of global warming are already being felt in Oregon communities – extreme drought declared in half of Oregon’s counties, raging wildfire seasons, and decreased winter snowpack are becoming the new normal. Oregonians expect and deserve a cleaner future. The Clean Fuels Program is essential to reducing Oregon’s transportation carbon footprint.