

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/16, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts carbon dioxide emissions from combustion or decomposition of biomass from regulation under certain air pollution laws unless necessary to implement federal Clean Air Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Biomass is the organic matter in trees, agricultural crops and other living plant material. It is made up of carbohydrates — organic compounds that are formed in growing plantlife. Biomass sources provide about three percent of all energy consumed in the United States. The Department of Energy estimates that the total energy value of biomass fuel consumed in Oregon was 79 trillion Btu in 2003. This is about 10 percent of the total amount of non-transportation energy consumed in the state.

Senate Bill 752 exempts carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion or decomposition of biomass from regulation under certain air pollution laws unless it is necessary to implement the federal Clean Air Act.