



## OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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### Governor Kate Brown and Oregon Legislative Leaders

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

May 20, 2015

### An Open Letter to Governor Brown and Legislative Leaders on Passing a Transportation & Infrastructure Package

Dear Governor Brown and Legislative Leaders,

At the outset of the 2015 Legislative Session, a top OBA priority was passing a transportation and infrastructure package critical to maintaining and growing Oregon's transportation-dependent economy and expanding multi-modal transportation across the state.

The business community understands the long-term demands of investing in critical transportation and infrastructure projects and this investment fosters a better economic climate and enhanced quality of life for our citizens. An added benefit is the creation of tens of thousands of middle class jobs for Oregonians statewide.

OBA also supported the Clean Fuels legislation (SB 324), which passed early in the session. SB 324 originally passed in 2009 with a 2015 sunset date, but was not scheduled to take effect until 2016. Now the rules are written and adopted, and Governor Brown has signed the bill into law. The program has the potential to bring Oregon into the mix with Washington, California, and British Columbia as the West Coast commits to lowering carbon impacts and opening doors to economic development opportunities for renewable fuels industries. This bill was amended significantly to address our concerns regarding cost issues and quality/quantity of fuels.

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We are aware that you are all working hard to pull a transportation package together this session. We understand this might require compromise language in the Clean Fuels legislation.

**We support such a compromise.**

The federal government has largely abandoned its traditional role of funding infrastructure, and collapsing support of the Federal Highway Trust Fund is well-documented. Over the years, there has been a significant reduction in Oregon's ability to make critical investments in core infrastructure. There is ample time for this bi-partisan group of legislators to come to agreement on the framework of a package. In fact, Oregon has produced many transportation infrastructure packages (in a short time period) in the past. An impressive group of supporters is waiting and ready to help speed a new package through the Oregon Assembly.

Warm regards,



Mark Long  
OBA Board Chair  
Managing Partner, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, PC



Ryan Deckert  
OBA President