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Fighting for Air

March 2, 2015

TO: Oregon State Representatives

FROM: Carrie Nyssen, Vice President of Advocacy and Air Quality
American Lung Association in Oregon

RE: Vote "YES" on SB 324 Relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from
transportation fuels

*From the desk of
Betty Komp*

The American Lung Association in Oregon urges your 'YES' vote on SB 324. This legislation is a win for Oregon: it's a win for clean air, it's a win for healthier lungs and it's a win for our children.

Air pollution affects the health of all Oregonians, but disproportionately impacts children, the elderly, low-income communities and those with chronic illnesses such as lung and heart disease. We pay for air pollution now; these health affects cost our state millions of dollars annually with health care expenses and lost productivity in Oregon's workplaces.

Transportation accounts for the greatest share of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. Cleaner fuels are vital to reduce air toxics, particle pollution, ozone and carbon pollution. Cleaner fuels can directly reduce common health problems caused by toxic air pollution, like asthma, cancer and COPD.

People do not have choice in the air they breathe, but we do have a choice in what we put into our air. Breathing polluted air shortens life expectancy and increases visits to health care providers and hospitals. Cleaner fuels are critical to those living near major freeways, ports, rail yards and other pollution hotspots.

The transition to clean fuels and clean transportation technologies is a win-win. Please give your 'YES' vote for a healthier Oregon.

Sincerely,

Carrie Nyssen

Carrie Nyssen

Rep. Betty Komp



Clean Fuels for Clean Air and a Healthy Oregon

The American Lung Association in Oregon supports a clean fuel standard because of the direct impact the program will have on reducing air toxics, particle pollution, ozone and greenhouse gases. A clean fuel standard reduces pollution from gasoline and diesel by 10% in ten years.

The clean fuel standard was approved by the Oregon legislature in 2009. Since that time, stakeholders have worked with Oregon's agencies to develop a program that will work in Oregon. Now is the time for Oregon to implement the program and move forward with cleaner fuel choices so all Oregonians can breathe easier.

AIR POLLUTION HARMS OREGON'S HEALTH

- ★ **700,000+** Oregonians live close enough to major roadways to face increased health risks due to exposure to traffic pollution.¹
- ★ **466,000** Oregonians are at risk for serious lung conditions, like asthma and chronic pulmonary disease.²
- ★ **387,000** Oregonians, including **67,000** children, live with asthma, resulting in **2,000 hospitalizations** and costing **\$28 million** per year.³
- ★ **\$243 million per year** in increased health costs and lost productivity.⁴
- ★ **106 unhealthy air days** (2009).⁵
- ★ **Vehicles produce 36% of climate pollutants**, more than any other source.⁶

WHY CLEAN FUELS?

- ★ **Benefits those most at risk:** Children, the elderly, low-income people and communities of color face greater consequences of air pollution.
- ★ **25% less gasoline and diesel consumption.** Clean fuels on the West Coast could reduce oil use by 400,000 barrels per day, according to the ICCT and E4Tech.⁷
- ★ **More fuel choices means greater price stability**, and less dependence on oil.
- ★ **Keeps Oregon consistent with clean fuel efforts on the West Coast.** California and British Columbia have clean fuels standards in place and Washington state is developing a standard.
- ★ **Broad support.** 60%+ public support. Endorsed by 150 businesses, community leaders, and organizations.⁸

¹Rowangould, G., *A census of the US near-roadway population*, <http://bit.ly/1DhTLdS>

²American Lung Association, *State of the Air 2014*, <http://stateoftheair.org>

³Centers for Disease Control, <http://1.usa.gov/1DMRpqf>

⁴OR Department of Public Health: cost of asthma <http://1.usa.gov/1Az4DD2>

⁵Oregon Health Authority <http://1.usa.gov/18gRup8>

⁶Clean Fuels Advisory Committee, <http://bit.ly/1Gnm63g>

⁷ICCT/E4Tech, *Low Carbon Fuels in the Pacific Region*, <http://bit.ly/1vqpNUT>

⁸Clean Fuels Work, <http://cleanfuelswork.com>