

State Representative
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House District 60

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“Clean Fuel Bill” Dooms Infrastructure

SALEM—Senate Bill 324, passed on Wednesday, according to private estimates, will raise the price of gas and diesel sold in Oregon by as much as a dollar per gallon. (The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that SB 324 will raise fuel prices by 4-to-19 cents per gallon).

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) said, “The billions you will have to pay because of this bill will go to natural gas companies and sugar cane growers, and not to the repair of Oregon’s aging bridges and roads. Having to pay as much as a dollar per gallon more as a result of SB 324, means that anyone who drives a vehicle that burns gas or diesel will justifiably say “no” to another increase in the gas tax, even when they know that their bridges and roads need to be fixed.”

“It is a sad day for Oregon’s roads,” added Rep. Bentz, one of the Republican leadership team who organized the floor fight against the SB 324. “Everyone knows that it is a huge challenge to find support for additional road taxes even when additional money for road repair is absolutely necessary. To pass a bill like SB 324, which forces Oregonians to pay billions more at the pump for sugar cane and electric car companies, and then to expect the voters to support an increase in the gas tax is implausible to say the least.”

The bill passed on a 31-to-29 vote and now goes to the Governor. Those interested in weighing in on the bill with the governor can do so by emailing her at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/share-your-opinion.aspx>.

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