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## Higher Fuel Prices to be Voted on by Oregon Senate

SALEM—As Oregonians experience a reprieve from \$4.00 per gallon gas prices, Oregon Democrats are bringing SB 324 to the floor of the Oregon Senate. This bill may raise the cost of gas by as much as \$1 per gallon.

The LCFS (Low Carbon Fuel Standard) was passed in 2009. The law authorized the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission to develop low carbon requirements for gas and diesel fuel, with the goal of reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by 2020.

Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) said, “I will be voting "No" on this bill. It does little or nothing to lower CO2 emissions. Instead, it sends millions and millions of Oregonian’s dollars to ethanol manufacturers. This ‘hidden gas tax’ does not put a dime into our roads, bridges, and infrastructure.”

“This inept and expensive ‘remedy’ concept will not achieve any meaningful reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and worse, it increases the wear and tear on engines. In fact, the amount of ethanol that this bill will force into diesel will actually void diesel engine warranties.”

Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality admits this bill could result in an increase of as much as 19 cents per gallon by 2025. Other studies say the increase could be as much as \$1.06 per gallon.

On Tuesday, Senate Republicans filed a minority report to refer the issue to Oregon voters. It is unlikely to be adopted.

Rep. Bentz added, “This law, if passed, could cost Eastern Oregonians hundreds and hundreds of dollars in increased fuel cost for no reason other than to try to keep up with California. Please email the Democrats in the Oregon House telling them to vote no.” Contact information for Democrat Representatives can be found at:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/house/Pages/RepresentativesDemocrats.aspx>

Up-to-date information on the progress of this bill (as well as a copy of the draft, information about public hearings, and recordings of past hearings) can be found on the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1>.

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