



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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In Case You Missed It

“...a well-crafted transportation package could easily do more than the clean fuels program to reduce emissions”

Editorial: Brown’s tough road to a transportation deal
[The Albany Democrat Herald](#)

“Is Gov. Kate Brown willing to use the state’s clean fuels law as a bargaining chip if that’s what it takes to get a transportation package through the Legislature?”

Our guess is, probably not — and that’s a shame.

But it’s not outside the realm of possibility, now that Brown has summoned legislative leaders from both parties into private meetings to discuss how to get the Legislature moving on a transportation package to help pay for badly needed infrastructure projects.

Here’s the catch, though: Such a transportation package will require at least some Republican support, since it would have to be funded through an increase in the gas tax.

Here’s the other catch: Republican leaders were saying even before the session started that they would not support a transportation package if the Legislature extended the state’s controversial clean fuels law. Their argument was that the clean fuels law almost certainly would result in an increase in the price consumers pay at the pump — and they didn’t want to impose two separate government-imposed increases on the price of gasoline.

But then the Legislature, with its Democratic numbers bolstered by November’s elections, went ahead and passed the extension of the clean-fuels program – and Brown, as she said she would, signed the legislation into law.

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We’re not convinced the program will reduce carbon emissions in any appreciable manner. It also seems to us that a well-crafted transportation package could easily do more than the clean fuels program to reduce emissions.

Brown could have vetoed the bill, or remanded it to the Legislature for additional work. Both moves would have helped keep her options open. But now, she’s facing an increasingly tight deadline as the session starts to wind down, and it’s not clear how much she’s willing to give away in the negotiations with

legislative leaders. Odder things have happened near the end of a legislative session, but prospects still don't look good for a transportation package.”

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Read the full editorial [here](#).