



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Senate takes historic step advancing Oregon's economy and fuel alternatives**

##### *SB 324 makes permanent Oregon's Clean Fuels Program*

SALEM – Senate Democrats delivered a significant economic and environmental victory this afternoon, passing Senate Bill 324, legislation that removes the sunset on provisions related to Oregon's low carbon fuel standard. Commonly referred to as the Clean Fuels Program, the program requires oil companies to gradually reduce carbon pollution from their gasoline and diesel fuel by 10 percent over ten years.

"This is a historic day for Oregon and the world is watching as we lead on innovative solutions to reduce carbon pollution from fuels," said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene/Junction City), chief sponsor of Senate Bill 324 and chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. "Today we are demonstrating that we can reduce carbon pollution, increase consumer choice, and create jobs right here at home."

SB 324 makes the adoption of rules by the Environmental Quality Commission surrounding Clean Fuels mandatory. The Program is technology-neutral, and fuel importers have flexible options to meet the standard. Oil companies can blend low-carbon biofuels into their fuel mix, and/or purchase credits generated by projects supporting electric vehicles, natural gas, propane, and other clean fuels. Oregonians will have more access to a variety of fuels as a result of the Clean Fuels Program, creating a more diverse, affordable, healthy, and stable fuel mix.

"The Clean Fuels Program is a smart, pragmatic approach to protecting our environment and encouraging innovating investments," said Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), who carried the

bill on the Senate floor. “Removing this sunset is an important step toward reducing our dependence on petroleum and channeling those dollars into Oregon’s economy.”

The Legislature approved House Bill 2186 in 2009, creating the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Since then, stakeholders have worked to fully implement the program and SB 324 removes the final hurdle to enacting more fuel efficient standards.

Extending the Clean Fuels Program will give investors and entrepreneurs the certainty they need to expand production of alternative fuels and build additional facilities. That means new jobs in both rural and urban communities across Oregon. The Clean Fuels industry in Oregon has already generated hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and created thousands of jobs. Independent analysis has found that extending the program could save Oregonians more than \$1.6 billion in fuel costs, create up to 29,000 jobs, and add \$2.6 billion to Oregonians’ personal income.

“Promoting innovation in clean energy is key component of the Oregon Senate Democrats’ [agenda](#) for 2015,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Senate Bill 324 will help support the growing green energy sector, power our economy, and help address the imminent threats that we face from global warming.”

SB 324 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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