



**OREGON SENATE
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Senator Olsen and Senator Thomsen Call for End to Political Maneuvering on SB 324

Salem, OR - Today, Senator Chuck Thomsen and Senator Alan Olsen called upon members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee to table SenateBill 324, which would remove the sunset and extend the Clean Fuels Program (also known as the Low Carbon Fuel Standard).

Senator Olsen and Senator Thomsen expressed concern that the bill was being fast-tracked through the committee as a political maneuver without proper oversight and scrutiny over the potential harmful economic impact on Oregon families and small businesses.

"I have never seen a committee act with such little transparency," stated Senator Olsen (R-Canby). "In fact, they've said publicly that they don't care about the serious concerns we and many others have raised over the ineffectiveness of the program and the harmful, regressive impact higher gas prices would have on struggling Oregonians. The committee must stop all movement on SB 324 until these serious concerns have been addressed."

The Department of Environmental Quality recently released results of a study on the impact of the Clean Fuels Program that predicted gas prices could rise by as much as \$0.19 per gallon. Other independent studies show prices at the pump could rise by \$1.06 per gallon, costing Oregon 29,000 jobs.

"Working to lower carbon emissions and reduce our impact on the environment is important," said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). "But too many questions still exist about how the program will work and whether it will achieve that goal. If fuel producers are forced to buy credits when they can't meet the blending mandate they will pass those costs on to consumers. Small businesses, working families and seniors living on fixed incomes throughout Oregon can't afford higher gas prices, which will also drive up prices of groceries and other basic necessities."

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