



## OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

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### **Senate Republicans Call to Refer the Low Carbon Fuel Standard to Oregon Voters**

*Minority Report Refers SB 324 to the Ballot*

Salem, OR - On Tuesday, Senate Republicans filed a minority report to refer the hidden gas tax in the Low Carbon Fuels Mandate to Oregon voters. SB 324 lifts the sunset on the Clean Fuels Program, implementing a mandate on Low Carbon Fuels that will cost Oregonians at the pump.

"The Low Carbon Fuels Mandate is nothing more than a hidden gas tax that raises gas prices without sending a cent to improve roads and bridges around the state," said Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby). "Democrats are enabling rich, out-of-state alternative energy profiteers to benefit at the expense of Oregonians who can't afford higher prices at the pump."

While uncertainty surrounds the long term effect of the program on gas prices, studies show gas prices will increase by an average of \$0.40 per gallon, up to over one dollar per gallon. The typical Oregon family spends over \$2,900 per year on fuel. Even a moderate hike in gas prices due to the Low Carbon Fuels Mandate will cause pain at the pump for Oregonians.

Because the Low Carbon Fuels Mandate is guaranteed to increase gas prices, Senate Republicans argue that any hidden gas tax should be referred to Oregon voters. A hike in fuel prices from an unscientific mandate will harm all Oregonians, and they should have an opportunity to approve or reject any program that impacts prices at the pump.

"The Low Carbon Fuels Mandate disproportionately harms rural Oregonians and working families that don't have access to public transportation or the financial means to buy a more fuel efficient vehicle," explained Senate Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River).

"Oregonians have the right to decide if they are willing to pay for an unscientific mandate that raises gas prices without a clear benefit to the environment."

The minority report, if adopted in the Senate, would allow Oregonians to have a vote on the Low Carbon Fuel Mandate's impact on gas prices later this year, before the program

sunsets.



Senator Olsen and Senator Thomsen: "Why don't we send it to the voters?"

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