

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Support of Senate Bill 324
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
February 2, 2015**



Chair Edwards and members of the Committee:

As you know, Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area. The voters of the region created Metro specifically to address urban issues that are regional in nature rather than local and to deal with challenges that cross city and county lines. In practice, many of those issues have to do with the environment and the economy.

In 2008, our region agreed on a set of six desired outcomes that together define successful communities.¹ One of those desired outcomes is that the region is a leader in minimizing contributions to climate change. Another is that current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.

Metro supported repeal of the Clean Fuels program's statutory sunset in the last two legislative sessions. We believe that the collaborative approach used by the Department of Environmental Quality during both phases of the administrative rule making process will enable the program to be effectively implemented.

The Clean Fuels Program strongly aligns with Metro's plans and programs:

- Metro has adopted and is carrying out the region's Climate Smart Strategy as directed by the Oregon Legislature in the 2009 Jobs and Transportation Act. This strategy, which was adopted with broad support from our local government partners in the Portland region, is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles. The strategy assumes implementation of the Clean Fuels program as part of an overall effort to meet statutory emission reduction targets. Failure to implement the program could undermine our region's ability to meet our obligations under the JTA.
- Metro's plans are consistent with Governor Kitzhaber's 10-Year Energy Plan, the Oregon Transportation Commission's Statewide Transportation Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, and the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Roadmap to 2020, all of which anticipate the use of lower carbon fuels.
- Metro is committed to improving the sustainability of our regional solid waste system. The Clean Fuels program is expected to increase incentives to develop clean bio-fuels (e.g., bio-diesel from organic wastes) and to provide opportunities to transition garbage and recycling trucks from conventional fuels (e.g., diesel) to renewable and cleaner fuels (e.g., compressed natural gas).

The repeal of the sunset will provide assurance to investors in low carbon fuels production and transportation infrastructure that Oregon is committed to a clean fuels future.

Metro believes SB 324 supports our region's desired outcomes for successful communities, including clean air and water and minimizing contributions to climate change.

We urge you to pass SB 324.

¹ The Portland metropolitan region's six desired outcomes:

- **Vibrant communities:** People live and work in vibrant communities where they can choose to walk for pleasure and to meet their everyday needs.
- **Economic prosperity:** Current and future residents benefit from the region's sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.
- **Safe and reliable transportation:** People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.
- **Leadership on climate change:** The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.
- **Clean air and water:** Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems.
- **Equity:** The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably.