

February 2, 2015



Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Dear Chair Edwards & Members of the Committee,

I represent the Bend Chamber of Commerce, and we join the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce in opposing the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). Under Senate Bill 324, which recent polls show Oregonians oppose, our local small businesses and working families would be disproportionately affected by the likely rise in gas prices as a result of the regulations.

The LCFS would be especially harmful for our rural community and those who have to drive long distances. Our local citizens and businesses will suffer the most. Senate Bill 324 will reduce the disposable income of the citizens who purchase the products and services that are the lifeblood of the local businesses we represent. The supposed job creation that the LCFS would create is not a real prospect for our community.

The Oregon DEQ assumes that gasoline prices will increase between 6 and 19 cents per gallon under the LCFS. Other studies show that the price will increase between 33 cents and \$1.06 per gallon. Our citizens and our businesses can't afford this.

Our local economy in large part depends on tourism. Higher gas prices mean Oregonians will be less likely to recreate and travel to communities such as ours that rely on tourism, a \$9.6 billion industry and provider of thousands of jobs statewide and many in our community.

We are also opposed to this legislation because it will so dramatically raise our gas prices with no prospect of any of this money going to fix and upgrade our roads and bridges.

We are respectfully requesting that you let the LCFS program expire. There are no benefits to our business community and our community at large, but the risks are significant.

Sincerely,

Tim Casey  
President & CEO

Bcc: Senator Tim Knopp – District 27; Senator Ted Ferrioli – District 30  
Bcc: Rep. Whisnant – District 53; Rep. McLane – District 55; Rep. Buehler – District 54; Rep. Huffman – District 59