



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
Members of the Committee
beth.patino@state.or.us

Re: SB 324 – Oregon’s Clean Fuel Standard: SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since the 1950’s, the League has advanced a broad national program urging that we avoid the depletion of natural resources and manage the interrelated aspects of air, water, land use, energy and waste management. In the last 15 years, the League has lobbied for conservation of fossil fuel based resources and controlling the pollution associated with these resources: to preserve the ecosystem for future generations and to protect public health.

Our testimony in support of SB 324 is consistent with the League’s national position and focus on pollution prevention and climate change. Any major increase in fossil fuel industry infrastructure is not congruent with the current national League’s Climate Change position. Our members are actively working all over the country to address greenhouse gas reduction and reduce the effects of climate change. The pollution from fossil fuels not only increase greenhouse gas emissions, but the pollution from their usage across the Pacific returns to Oregon via air currents and adds to CO₂ PPM (reached 402 PPM spring of 2014), 14.9% higher than what is deemed required for a stable, eco-friendly climate.

The League supports SB 324, a bill that removes the sunset from Oregon’s Clean Fuels Program at the end of 2015. Removing the sunset would allow the Department of Environmental Quality to continue to focus on assuring that Oregonians have access to cleaner fuels. Provisions allowing the use of all types of low carbon fuels to meet the low carbon fuel standards, including but not limited to biofuels, biogas, compressed natural gas, gasoline, diesel, hydrogen and electricity; Ultimately, the Clean Fuels Program is designed to reduce the life-cycle emissions of carbon from the fuel used in Oregon’s transportation system so as to delay or reduce the negative impacts of global climate change and to reduce other emitted pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOC’s).

The League supports the removal of the sunset because the bill contains sensible consumer protections (limiting price inflation to 4%). In addition, production in Oregon should increase the availability of fuels and the resilience of the supply system during times when the Washington State refineries are down for repairs or preventative maintenance. Oregon’s Clean Fuel Program anticipates creating 20-29,000 new jobs, according to Jack Faucett and Associates. This could grow personal income as much as \$2.6 billion.

Oregon has an opportunity to take advantage of West Coast regional opportunities. California and British Columbia already have successful clean fuel programs in place as part of thriving clean economies. Washington is poised to move ahead with a program of its own. Oregon should be part of the developing West Coast clean fuels corridor. If we remain on the sidelines, opportunities and investments will pass us by.

Additionally, the League supports clean fuels that reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, the cause of dozens of health problems such as asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. These health problems disproportionately affect children, the elderly, low-income communities, and communities of color. They also take people out of the workforce and run up health care expenses, with asthma alone costing Oregon millions in hospital visits.

The League urges the House Environment and Energy Committee to advance SB 324 from Committee with a “do pass” recommendation.



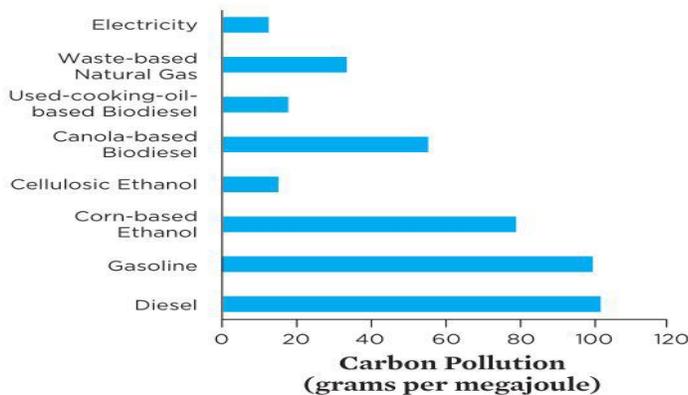
Robin Wisdom
President



Claudia Keith
Climate Change Portfolio

Reference -

The Carbon Intensity of Transportation Fuels
in Washington State



Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

Fuel	Carbon Intensity* (gCO ₂ e/MJ)
Gasoline	92.34
Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel	91.53
Fossil LNG	83.13
Propane	83.05
Fossil CNG	70.22
Corn Ethanol (coal-powered)	64.82
Corn Ethanol (natural gas-powered)	53.79
Electricity (Oregon statewide mix)	37.80
Soybean Biodiesel	19.99
Cellulosic Ethanol (Farmed Trees)	15.54
Biogas CNG	11.26
Yellow Grease Biodiesel	10.28

[.opb.org/news-which-oregon-fuels-have-the-smallest-carbon-footprint/](http://opb.org/news-which-oregon-fuels-have-the-smallest-carbon-footprint/)

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200 • Salem, OR 97302 • 503-581-5722 • Fax: 503-581-9403 • lwvor@lwvor.org • www.lwvor.org