



727 Center Street, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
503-370-4413  
fax 503-371-4781  
[www.opuda.org](http://www.opuda.org)

**Chris Chandler**  
**Central Lincoln PUD**  
**On behalf of the Oregon PUD Association**

## **Oregon PUDs Oppose the Low Carbon Fuel Standard**

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Chandler and I am with the Central Lincoln PUD. I am here in opposition to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, known as the LCFS, on behalf of the Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA). OPUDA's members include five People's Utility Districts (known as PUDs) which provide electric service to mostly rural Oregonians.

Oregon's PUDs collectively serve over 193,000 people and deliver over 4 million megawatt hours of electricity to Oregonians annually. OPUDA member utilities provide almost 400 family wage jobs in rural communities, representing more than \$46 million in salary and benefits.

Oregon PUDs provide their customers with electricity that is more than 96% carbon-free, one of the highest rates of clean energy in the United States. Oregon's PUDs offer innovative energy solutions supporting renewable energy such as biomass, solar, and wind, energy efficiency programs and conservation as a resource.

A solid mix of power sources reduces operational and financial risk, and helps PUDs maintain safe, reliable, and affordable service for our customers now and in the future. "Cost to customers" is a critical consideration when considering what new resources are truly sustainable and affordable to the public. That is why OPUDA opposes the LCFS, which will increase the cost of fuel for our fleets, and for our customers.

Oregon's coastal and rural communities will be hit the hardest by the LCFS. Communities like Tillamook, Newport, Yachats, Reedsport, Scappoose, Cottage Grove, and The Dalles. These are just some of the communities that we serve. Low-income and working rural families cannot afford to buy new vehicles, and will suffer from higher fuel prices. Rural Oregonians do not have alternative transportation. We do not have a choice about driving long distances.

If the LCFS is about transferring money from one group to another, in rural Oregon, you are transferring money from low-income Oregonians forced to drive cars to where they need to go, to wealthier communities for mass transit projects. This bill is truly regressive. I also oppose the LCFS as the driver of an all-electric car. My Nissan LEAF gets 100 miles to a charge, and costs just \$1.69 to charge to 100 miles with our residential rates. It came with a 110V charger I simply plug into any outlet. And, contrary to perception, electric vehicles are affordable: Any Oregonian with good credit can lease a LEAF as I did for \$2,400 down, and monthly payments of \$200. Electric car owners don't need subsidies or underwriting obtained by taxing other Oregonians via the LCFS.

Oregon's PUDs urge you to reconsider this regressive fuel tax on rural Oregonians. Thank you.

*Central Lincoln PUD – Newport*

*Columbia River PUD – St. Helens*

*Emerald PUD – Eugene*

*Northern Wasco County PUD – The Dalles*

*Tillamook PUD – Tillamook*