



February 23, 2015

House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (SB 324)

Dear Chair Vega Pederson & Members of the Committee,

The Silverton Chamber of Commerce has taken a position of opposing the Low Carbon Fuel Standard consistent with the position of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce.

SB 324 will increase gas prices significantly. It is, in effect, a hidden gas tax that will reduce disposable income and negatively affect our local economy. It's regressive and will effectively make our low income citizens shoulder a disproportionate share of the cost.

SB 324 will cost far more jobs than it creates, with studies indicating net job losses between 9,000 and 29,000. Whatever job gains SB 324 promises will be overwhelmed by job losses resulting from the increased fuel costs.

Our community's economic recovery is still relatively fragile. Imposing new costs on our citizens and small businesses when we are now seeing the benefits of increased disposable income due to reduced fuel prices is a self-inflicted and needless blow to our local economy.

The Silverton and Willamette Valley area needs transportation funding and infrastructure as much as any community in Oregon. The increased costs of the LCFS will not put any resources at all into transportation projects. Furthermore, it compromises funding for road projects not only in this biennium, but in future years as well as Oregonians bristle at the increased costs of fuel brought on by the LCFS.

The Silverton Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to vote 'no' on SB 324. The costs of the legislation far outweigh any benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Palmer".

Stacy Palmer, IOM
Executive Director