

## AOC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 752

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Re: Senate Bill 752

Date: March 16, 2015

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Counties support SB 752 which conditionally exempts the regulation of carbon dioxide emissions from combustion or decomposition of biomass. AOC believes that SB 752 will remove a barrier to increased investment in biomass production and that is good for Oregon and the counties.

Biomass has a many benefits for Oregon which include:

- increased energy independence for Oregon,
- lowering Oregon's carbon footprint, and
- Stimulating new economic investment and green job opportunities, especially in rural areas.

While there have already been a number of investments statewide in biomass facilities, the state is nowhere near the capacity for more. By exempting carbon dioxide emissions from biomass the legislature can provide investors more certainty in their future investment into biomass facilities.

AOC acknowledges that the accounting of biogenic carbon dioxide emissions can be complex but believes that the US Environmental Protection Agency's analysis is clear and consistent with SB 752.

Please contact AOC Staff Mark Nystrom regarding any questions with this testimony.