

February 24, 2015

**Union of Concerned Scientists' Testimony in Support of SB 324
House Committee on Energy and Environment**

Ms. Chairwoman and Members:

My name is Jason Barbose and I'm with the Union of Concerned Scientists.

On behalf of our 11,000 supporters in Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Clean Fuels Program and SB 324.

Our Oregon members strongly support the Clean Fuels Program as a way for the state to create new industries and jobs from home-grown sources of fuel and diversify fuel supplies to reduce our reliance on price-volatile imports. In addition, it is an important step to cleaning the air, improving public health, and reducing the state's global warming pollution.

My organization has been very involved in federal and state clean fuels policies for many years, including the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which is operating successfully.

We believe the Clean Fuels Program is a smart policy approach to diversifying Oregon's fuel supply because it is more than a policy to encourage biofuels. It is a policy to encourage use of all low-carbon fuels – be they biofuels, electricity, propane, or even oil – and it is a policy that provides incentives for continued innovation.

We are convinced that Oregon's in-state resources that can be converted to fuel should make it a magnet for investment in clean fuels, but investors will need to see a signal from Oregon that the state is making a real commitment to these fuels or they will take their dollars elsewhere.

There are many home-grown resources in Oregon that can be put to use under a Clean Fuels Program. These include:

- Biodiesel made from used cooking oil, which can cut global warming pollution by 75 percent relative to conventional diesel fuel.
- Fast growing trees like hybrid poplar, which are among the fastest-growing trees in North America and an ideal source of sustainable biomass.
- Methane captured from landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, and dairies – also known as renewable natural gas – can replace fossil sources of natural gas used in transportation, cutting the lifecycle emissions of these vehicles by more than half.

Oregon landfills alone produce enough methane to replace 75 million gallons of diesel fuel.

- Electricity is an important low carbon fuel. UCS analysis demonstrates that driving an electric vehicle in Oregon produces global warming emissions equivalent to driving a car with a mileage rating of 75 mile per gallon. In addition, it is four times cheaper in Oregon than gasoline.

By creating a stable science-based policy framework that recognizes that cleaner fuels are more valuable than dirtier fuels, the policy will support investment in clean fuels production and bring down the costs of clean fuels.

For these reasons, we request your support for SB 324 and the Clean Fuels Program. Thank you.