

## Senate passes biofuels legislation

by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources

Bill will mean new jobs for Oregon and less dependence on foreign oil

SALEM, Ore. - The Oregon Senate on Thursday passed House Bill 2210, a biofuels package that will develop new jobs in Oregon and will help curb dependence on foreign oil. The legislation is supported by environmental groups, concerned about toxic air emissions, and the agriculture community, where it is seen as an excellent source for rural economic development.

“This legislation is a win for creating jobs and the environment,” said Senator Brad Avakian (DPortland/Beaverton), carrier of the bill. “Oregon is a natural choice for becoming a leader in the biofuels industry.”

House Bill 2210 allows an income and corporate excise tax credit for agricultural producers and collectors of biofuel raw materials. The bill also allows an income tax credit for consumers who purchase ethanol and biodiesel for use in alternative fuel vehicles and expands local property tax exemptions for facilities that produce ethanol, biofuel or verified fuel additive.

“This is a big step in the right direction for Oregon,” said Senator Vicki Walker (D-Eugene), Chair of the interim Committee on Natural Resources and Alternative Energy. “This is a smart plan for building a vibrant renewable energy industry that will benefit all Oregonians.”

House Bill 2210 creates standards for biofuel, ethanol and other renewable diesel. The bill requires sellers of gasoline to sell only gasoline that contains at least 10 percent ethanol within three months after Oregon’s production of ethanol reaches 40 million gallons.

House Bill 2210 will now move to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

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