February 19, 2014

Dear Clean Fuels Advisory Committee Members,

Energy is the issue of our time – both globally and here in Oregon – and no single issue will have a greater impact on our state’s economy, environment and quality of life in the coming decade. The central question is whether we will shape our energy future through intentional investment and development, or whether it will shape us.

Oregon has a track record of successfully pursuing clean energy policy, programs and practices to reduce energy use and promote renewable alternatives to fossil fuels. I, in consultation with stakeholders and the public, developed the 10-Year Energy Action Plan to build on this great work, creating a clear, practical approach to meeting the state’s carbon reduction goals while enhancing our state’s economic and environmental objectives.

Goal Three of the 10-Year Energy Action Plan is to accelerate the market transformation to a more efficient, cleaner transportation system. Oregon citizens are already ahead of the pack when it comes to early adoption of highly efficient and alternative fuel vehicles. The state’s market readiness and customer interest in transitioning to an alternative fueling infrastructure are in place. A well-constructed and fully implemented Clean Fuels market transformation program has the potential to put Oregon on a pathway to building out an alternative fuel infrastructure, offering lower-cost and lower carbon alternatives to consumers. This would add significant value to the state: for our economy, for job creation, for a cleaner environment and a more energy-secure future.

I have directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to move forward with an open and public process to develop and fully implement the Clean Fuels Program. In addition, I have formed this Advisory Committee to deep dive into the Clean Fuels Program, both here and in other jurisdictions, and to provide recommendations to me as to how we can maximize the economic development opportunities associated with this transition to alternative fuels.

Thank you very much for your participation in this advisory committee.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor