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SENATE BILL NO. 508

INTRODUCED BY M. DUNWELL, M. FOX, C. POPE, J. ELLIS, A. OLSEN, P. FLOWERS, D. HAYMAN, E. MCCLAFFERTY, B. GILLESPIE, J. TREBAS, T. VERMEIRE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING ALTERNATIVE FUEL INCOME TAX LAWS; PROVIDING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR BIOFUEL PURCHASED FOR USE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR A BUSINESS IN THE TAXPAYER'S VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR RETAILERS SELLING CERTAIN BIODIESEL BLENDS PRODUCED IN MONTANA; PROVIDING INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR PROPERTY USED FOR THE PRODUCTION, BLENDING, AND STORAGE OF BIODIESEL OR BIOLUBRICANT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING SECTION 15-30-2303, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE, AN APPLICABILITY DATE, AND A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Biodiesel" has the meaning provided in 15-70-401.
- (2) "Biodiesel blend" means a blend of biodiesel and petroleum diesel fuel that is at least 2% biodiesel.
- (3) "Biofuel" means liquid fuel derived from organic matter intended for use as transportation fuel. The term includes but is not limited to biodiesel, biodiesel blends, ethanol, and ethanol-blended gasoline.
- (4) "Biolubricant" means a commercial or industrial product other than food or feed that is composed in whole or in substantial part of biological products, renewable domestic agricultural materials, including plant, animal, or marine materials, or forestry materials and that is used in place of a petroleum-based lubricant.
- (5) "Fuel retailer" means a taxpayer engaged in the business of selling fuel to the public.

1 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Biofuel use tax credit -- purpose -- definitions. (1) Pursuant to 5-4-  
2 104, the purpose of this credit is to promote the use of biofuels due to the higher economic and societal costs of  
3 petroleum gasoline and diesel fuels.

4 (2) (a) An individual taxpayer who purchases biofuel from biofuel producers or biofuel distributors  
5 or at retail for use in the taxpayer's vehicles and equipment after December 31, 2023, is entitled to claim a tax  
6 credit against taxes imposed by Title 15, chapter 30, in the tax year.

7 (b) Subject to subsection (5), the credit is equal to the cost of the biofuel purchased, not to exceed  
8 \$500.

9 (c) The credit may not be refunded and may not be carried forward or carried back.

10 (3) The credit may be claimed only for biodiesel blends that contain more than the state minimum  
11 requirement of biodiesel if a minimum requirement is in effect. The credit for the purchase of a biodiesel blend  
12 must be calculated according to the following schedule:

13 (a) for a biodiesel blend that contains at least 2% biodiesel but less than 5%, the credit is equal to  
14 0.02 times the total cost of the biodiesel blend purchased; and

15 (b) for a biodiesel blend that contains at least 5% biodiesel but less than 10%, the credit is equal to  
16 0.05 times the total cost of the biodiesel blend purchased.

17 (4) A taxpayer shall keep records of biodiesel purchases in order to substantiate the claimed tax  
18 credit.

19  
20 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Biofuel use tax credit. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of [section 2]  
21 and this section, a corporation, a small business corporation as defined in 15-30-3301, a partnership, ~~or a~~  
22 limited liability company as defined in 35-8-102, or a cooperative association as described in Title 35, chapter  
23 15, part 1, carrying on a trade or business is allowed the credit provided for in [section 2] against the taxes due  
24 under Title 15, chapters 30 and 31.

25 (b) The credit may be claimed only by a corporation, a small business corporation, ~~or a~~  
26 partnership, ~~or a~~ limited liability company, or a cooperative association that employs fewer than ~~46~~ 50  
27 employees.

28 (2) If the credit allowed under this section is claimed, the amount of the deduction allowed or

1 allowable under this chapter for the amount that qualifies for the credit must be reduced by the dollar amount of  
2 the credit allowed.

3 (3) The credit must be attributed to shareholders, partners, or members of a limited liability  
4 company in the same proportion used to report the corporation's, partnership's, or limited liability company's  
5 income or loss for Montana income tax purposes.

6  
7 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Montana-made biofuel tax credit -- purpose -- definitions.** (1) There is  
8 a credit against the taxes imposed by Title 15, chapters 30 and 31 for the sale of Montana-made biofuel. The  
9 credit may be claimed by a fuel retailer and is equal to \$1 for each gallon sold of biodiesel blend produced in  
10 the state that contains at least 5% biodiesel.

11 (2) The credit may not be refunded and may not be carried forward or carried back.

12 (3) A fuel retailer shall keep records of biodiesel purchases in order to substantiate the claimed tax  
13 credit.

14 (4) The purpose of this credit is to promote the sale of biofuels produced in this state due to the  
15 higher economic and societal costs of petroleum gasoline and diesel fuels.

16  
17 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Biodiesel or biolubricant production facility tax credit.** (1) An  
18 individual, a corporation, a small business corporation as defined in 15-30-3301, ~~or~~ a partnership, or a  
19 cooperative association as described in Title 35, chapter 15, part 1, may receive a credit against taxes imposed  
20 by Title 15, chapters 30 and 31, for the costs of investments in depreciable property for constructing a facility,  
21 equipping a facility, or both in the state to be used for biodiesel or biolubricant production.

22 (2) Subject to subsection (4), a taxpayer qualifying for a credit under this section is entitled to claim  
23 a credit, as provided in subsection (3), for the costs described in subsection (1) incurred in the 2 tax years  
24 before the facility begins producing biodiesel or biolubricant or in any tax year in which the facility is producing  
25 biodiesel or biolubricant.

26 (3) The total amount of the credits for all years that may be claimed for a facility under this section  
27 is 15% of the costs described in subsection (1).

28 (4) The following requirements must also be met for a taxpayer to be entitled to a tax credit under

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mary Ann Dunwell - (S) Taxation**

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Sara Hess, (406) 444-4838

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1 this section:

2 (a) The depreciable property for which the credit is claimed must begin operating before January 1,  
3 2029.

4 (b) (i) The taxpayer claiming a credit must be a person who, as an owner, including a contract  
5 purchaser or lessee, or who, pursuant to an agreement, owns, leases, or has a beneficial interest in a business  
6 that manufactures biodiesel or biolubricant.

7 (ii) If more than one person has an interest in a business with qualifying property, they may  
8 allocate all or any part of the investment cost among themselves and their successors or assigns.

9 (c) The business must be owned or leased during the tax year by the taxpayer claiming the credit,  
10 except as otherwise provided in subsection (4)(b), and, except for the 2 tax-year period claimed in subsection  
11 (2), must have been producing biodiesel or biolubricant during the tax year for which the credit is claimed and  
12 during each year in which the credit is carried forward.

13 (5) The credit provided by this section is not in lieu of any depreciation or amortization deduction  
14 for the investment or other tax incentive to which the taxpayer otherwise may be entitled under Title 15.

15 (6) A tax credit allowable under this section that is not completely used by the taxpayer in the tax  
16 year in which the credit was initially taken may be carried forward for credit against a taxpayer's tax liability for  
17 any succeeding tax year until the total amount of the credit has been deducted from tax liability. However, a  
18 credit may not be carried forward to any tax year in which the facility where the depreciable property is installed  
19 is not producing biodiesel or biolubricant or beyond the seventh tax year after the tax year for which the credit  
20 was initially claimed. If a facility for which a credit is claimed ceases production of biodiesel or biolubricant for a  
21 period of 12 continuous months within 5 years after the initial claiming of a credit under this section or within 5  
22 years after a year in which the credit was carried forward, the credit is subject to recapture. The person claiming  
23 the credit is liable for the total amount of the credit in the event of recapture.

24 (7) The taxpayer's adjusted basis for determining gain or loss may not be further decreased by any  
25 tax credits allowed under this section.

26 (8) If the taxpayer is a shareholder of an electing small business corporation, the credit must be  
27 computed using the shareholder's pro rata share of the corporation's cost of investing in the biodiesel or  
28 biolubricant production facility. In all other respects, the allowance and effect of the tax credit apply to the

1 corporation as otherwise provided by law.

2

3 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Oilseed crush facility tax credit. (1) An individual, a corporation, a  
4 small business corporation as defined in 15-30-3301, ~~or a partnership,~~ or a cooperative association as  
5 described in Title 35, chapter 15, part 1, may receive a credit against taxes imposed by Title 15, chapter 30 or  
6 31, for the costs of investments in depreciable property in the state that is used primarily for crushing oilseed  
7 crops for the purposes of producing biodiesel or biolubricant.

8 (2) Subject to subsection (4), a taxpayer qualifying for a credit under this section is entitled to claim  
9 a credit, as provided in subsection (3), for the costs described in subsection (1) incurred in the 2 tax years  
10 before the facility begins crushing oilseed or in any tax year in which the facility is crushing oilseed.

11 (3) The total amount of the credits for all years that may be claimed for a facility under this section  
12 is 15% of the costs described in subsection (1), up to a total of \$500,000.

13 (4) The following requirements must also be met for a taxpayer to be entitled to a tax credit under  
14 this section:

15 (a) The depreciable property for which the credit is claimed must begin to be used for the purposes  
16 described in subsection (1) before January 1, 2029.

17 (b) (i) The taxpayer claiming a credit must be a person who, as an owner, including a contract  
18 purchaser or lessee, or who, pursuant to an agreement, owns, leases, or has a beneficial interest in a business  
19 that crushes oilseed or that manufactures a product from crushed oilseed.

20 (ii) If more than one person has an interest in a business with qualifying property, they may  
21 allocate all or any part of the investment cost among themselves and their successors or assigns.

22 (c) The business must be owned or leased during the tax year by the taxpayer claiming the credit,  
23 except as otherwise provided in subsection (4)(b), and, except for the 2 tax-year period claimed in subsection  
24 (2), must have been using the depreciable property for the purposes described in subsection (1) during the tax  
25 year for which the credit is claimed and during each year for which the credit is carried forward.

26 (5) The credit provided by this section is not in lieu of any depreciation or amortization deduction  
27 for the investment or other tax incentive to which the taxpayer otherwise may be entitled under Title 15.

28 (6) A tax credit allowable under this section that is not completely used by the taxpayer in the tax

1 year in which the credit is initially claimed may be carried forward for credit against a taxpayer's tax liability for  
2 any succeeding tax year until the total amount of the credit has been deducted from tax liability. However, a  
3 credit may not be carried forward to any tax year in which the facility where the depreciable property is installed  
4 is not crushing oilseed or beyond the seventh tax year after the tax year for which the credit was initially  
5 claimed. If a facility in which property is installed and for which a credit is claimed ceases production of  
6 biodiesel or biolubricant for a period of 12 continuous months within 5 years after the initial claiming of a credit  
7 under this section or within 5 years after a year in which the credit was carried forward, the credit is subject to  
8 recapture. The person claiming the credit is liable for the total amount of the credit in the event of recapture.

9 (7) The taxpayer's adjusted basis for determining gain or loss may not be further decreased by any  
10 tax credits allowed under this section.

11 (8) If the taxpayer is a shareholder of an electing small business corporation, the credit must be  
12 computed using the shareholder's pro rata share of the corporation's cost of investing in equipment necessary  
13 to crush oilseed or to manufacture a product from oilseed. In all other respects, the allowance and effect of the  
14 tax credit apply to the corporation as otherwise provided by law.

15

16 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Biodiesel blending and storage tax credit.** (1) An individual, a  
17 corporation, a small business corporation as defined in 15-3-3301, ~~or a partnership,~~ or a cooperative  
18 association as described in Title 35, chapter 15, part 1, may receive a credit against taxes imposed by Title 15,  
19 chapter 30 or 31, for the costs of investments in depreciable property used for storing or blending biodiesel with  
20 petroleum diesel for sale.

21 (2) Subject to subsection (4), a special fuel distributor or an owner or operator of a motor fuel outlet  
22 qualifying for a credit under this section is entitled to claim a credit, as provided in subsection (3), for the costs  
23 described in subsection (1) incurred in the 2 tax years before the taxpayer begins blending biodiesel fuel for  
24 sale or in any tax year in which the taxpayer is blending biodiesel fuel for sale.

25 (3) (a) The total amount of the credits for all years that may be claimed by a special fuel distributor  
26 under this section is 15% of the costs described in subsection (1), up to a total of \$52,500.

27 (b) The total amount of the credits for all years that may be claimed by an owner or operator of a  
28 motor fuel outlet under this section is 15% of the costs described in subsection (1), up to a total of \$7,500.

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mary Ann Dunwell - (S) Taxation**

- 2023

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Drafter: Sara Hess, (406) 444-4838

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1           (4)     The following requirements must also be met for a taxpayer to be entitled to a tax credit under  
2 this section:

3           (a)     The investment must be for depreciable property used primarily to blend petroleum diesel with  
4 biodiesel made entirely from Montana-produced feedstocks.

5           (b)     Sales of biodiesel must be at least 2% of the taxpayer's total diesel sales by the end of the third  
6 year following the initial tax year in which the credit is initially claimed.

7           (c)     (i) The taxpayer claiming a credit must be a person who, as an owner, including a contract  
8 purchaser or lessee, or who, pursuant to an agreement, owns, leases, or has a beneficial interest in a business  
9 that blends biodiesel.

10          (ii)     If more than one person has an interest in a business with qualifying property, they may  
11 allocate all or any part of the investment cost among themselves and their successors or assigns.

12          (d)     The business must be owned or leased during the tax year by the taxpayer claiming the credit,  
13 except as otherwise provided in subsection (4)(c), and, except for the 2 tax-year period claimed in subsection  
14 (2), must have been blending biodiesel during the tax year for which the credit is claimed.

15          (5)     The credit provided by this section is not in lieu of any depreciation or amortization deduction  
16 for the investment or other tax incentive to which the taxpayer otherwise may be entitled under Title 15.

17          (6)     A tax credit allowable under this section that is not completely used by the taxpayer in the tax  
18 year in which the credit is initially claimed may be carried forward for credit against the taxpayer's tax liability for  
19 any succeeding tax year until the total amount of the credit has been deducted from tax liability. However, a  
20 credit may not be carried forward to any tax year in which the facility is not blending biodiesel or storing  
21 biodiesel for blending or beyond the seventh tax year after the tax year for which the credit was initially claimed.  
22 If a facility for which a credit is claimed ceases the blending of biodiesel with petroleum diesel for sale for a  
23 period of 12 continuous months within 5 years after the initial claiming of a credit under this section or within 5  
24 years after a year in which the credit was carried forward, or if the taxpayer claiming the credit fails to satisfy the  
25 conditions of subsection (4)(b), the total credit is subject to recapture. The person claiming the credit is liable for  
26 the total amount of the credit in the event of recapture.

27          (7)     The taxpayer's adjusted basis for determining gain or loss may not be further decreased by any  
28 tax credits allowed under this section.

1 (8) If the taxpayer is a shareholder of an electing small business corporation, the credit must be  
2 computed using the shareholder's pro rata share of the corporation's cost of investing in the biodiesel blending  
3 facility. In all other respects, the allowance and effect of the tax credit apply to the corporation as otherwise  
4 provided by law.

5 (9) The department of revenue shall report to the revenue interim committee biennially, in accordance  
6 with 5-11-210, regarding the number and type of taxpayers claiming the credit under this section, the total  
7 amount of the credit claimed, and the department's cost associated with administering the credit.

8

9 **Section 8.** Section 15-30-2303, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"15-30-2303. Tax credits subject to review by interim committee.** (1) The following tax credits  
11 must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2019, and during each biennium commencing 10  
12 years thereafter:

13 (a) the credit for contractor's gross receipts provided for in 15-50-207; and

14 (b) the credit for elderly homeowners and renters provided for in 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.

15 (2) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2021, and  
16 during each biennium commencing 10 years thereafter:

17 (a) the credit for donations to an educational improvement account provided for in 15-30-2334, 15-  
18 30-3110, and 15-31-158; and

19 (b) the credit for donations to a student scholarship organization provided for in 15-30-2335, 15-  
20 30-3111, and 15-31-159.

21 (3) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2023, and  
22 during each biennium commencing 10 years thereafter:

23 (a) the credit for infrastructure use fees provided for in 17-6-316;

24 (b) the credit for contributions to a qualified endowment provided for in 15-30-2327 through 15-30-  
25 2329, 15-31-161, and 15-31-162; and

26 (c) the credit for property to recycle or manufacture using recycled material provided for in Title 15,  
27 chapter 32, part 6.

28 (4) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2025, and