



*While the Legislature is not in session, OBI staff have been busy on policy, rulemaking and committees governing issues affecting member businesses. Here is a round-up of what OBI has been working on in October.*

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## Rulemaking

OBI staff and members attended the public meetings on the [Corporate Activity Tax](#) in September and October, which the Oregon Department of Revenue held throughout the state. At the meetings attended by OBI, the department representatives answered some questions and took notes on concerns. One issue of concern is whether businesses can include the tax on an invoice or receipt provided to customers (as has happened with [Portland's clean energy tax](#)). OBI is working with rule makers and legislators to clarify this point. Another concern OBI has raised is whether the rules will be completed early enough to give businesses time to understand them before the tax takes effect Jan. 1.

In the manufacturing sector, OBI is involved in rulemakings on the Cleaner Air Oregon hazard index, Willamette Basin mercury discharge rules, greenhouse gas reporting, water quality permit fee increases and the Oregon water integrated report. For more details on these issues, see this month's [In View: Manufacturing](#) newsletter.

In the employment sector, OBI is working on rules related an independent contractors, proposals on prevailing wage and a BOLI rulemaking. To read more about the specifics of these issues and OBI's role, see this month's [In View: Employment](#) newsletter.

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## Ballot Initiatives

Earlier this month [three proposed ballot initiatives](#) were filed which aim to set stringent reductions on carbon emissions, even more so than HB 2020, the carbon reduction bill which failed to pass in the 2019 legislative session. The proposed requirements include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 1990 levels by 2035 and making Oregon 100% carbon free by 2050, and requiring all electricity used in the state to be 100% clean energy by 2045. OBI is discussing the initiatives with members, as we are concerned with the drastic and unrealistic provisions proposed.

OBI is also following the initiative to [limit checkout stands](#) to two operating in any retail store at a time, and the initiative proposing [assessments on employers](#) for employees receiving public assistance. OBI submitted comments on the [checkout stand initiative](#) and the [assessments initiative](#) in early October.

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## 2019 Statesman Dinner

Thank you to all the members and guests who attended the 2019 Statesman Dinner. And thank you to our [sponsors](#) for helping OBI make this event happen. For more details on the evening's events, read the full [press release](#), check out our [photo gallery](#) or view [videos from the event](#). OBI honored Gov. Ted Kulongoski and businessman Gerry Frank as Statesmen of the Year and heard a keynote address from Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski.



## Upcoming Events

### 2020 OBI Annual Meeting -- Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 13, for the OBI Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Salem.



## Capitol News

[Bi-State Committee Tasked with Reviving Interstate Bridge Project Meets Next Friday](#)

[High-Profile Democrats to Square Off in Oregon Secretary of State Race](#)

[Oregon Republican Accuses Democrats of Creating Hostile Work Environment](#)

[Court Overrides Oregon AG, Ordering Her to Rewrite 'Misleading' Draft of Pension Ballot Measure](#)

[Drive to Recall Gov. Kate Brown Fails for Lack of Signatures](#)

[Lawsuit Filed Over Secretary of State's Unprecedented Rejection of Oregon Forest Ballot Measure](#)

[Oregon Labor Unions Vow Retribution Against Some Democrats](#)

[Northwest Tribes Call for Removal of Lower Columbia River Dams](#)

[Merkley Works for Fire Research Funding](#)

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## Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI has partnered with MCP Petroleum to drive down OBI members' fuel cost. OBI is leveraging the collective purchasing power of our membership to get

wholesale fuel pricing for our members. In addition to fuel savings, OBI members will have access to a comprehensive fuel management system that will reduce slippage, save valuable employee time and provide accountability and oversight of your company's fuel consumption.

OBI members who use 900 gallons of fuel annually through their company are eligible for this program. Please contact [Jeff DeSantis](#) for more information.



## LegalPLUS Program

Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provides members 15 minutes of legal consultation each month through the LegalPlus program. Check it out by [clicking here](#). Or contact Bob Blackmore at Innova Legal Advisors: Phone: 503-479-7175; email: [Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com](mailto:Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com)



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