



OBI Lobby Day – Feb. 28



Don't forget to register for OBI Lobby Day on Feb. 28. We have meetings scheduled with Reps. Smith-Warner, Fahey, Lively, Nathanson and Wilson, Sens. Baertschiger, Roblan, Hass, and Frederick and Speaker Kotek. Nik Blosser, Chief of Staff to Governor Kate Brown, will join us for lunch. Please join us! [Click](#) here to register.

Medicaid Funding Update

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means voted [HB 2010](#), the Medicaid funding bill, out of committee on a 19-2 vote. Reps. McLane and Stark voted no on the bill, which includes a hospital assessment, an increase in the health insurance premium tax (from 1.5 percent to 2 percent) and adds a stop-loss assessment. This bill is on a fast-track for passage. We anticipate it will be up for a vote on the House floor early next week.

Cap and Trade Public Hearings begin

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction met last Monday night for the second round of invited testimony since HB 2020 was publicly released. Monday's stakeholder panels fit into three buckets – Transportation, Natural Resources and Industry. The majority of stakeholders testifying Monday raised concerns about HB 2020 as drafted and the economic impacts of a cap and trade system in Oregon, while a few pledged their support and insisted it was time for Oregon to be a leader in combatting climate change.

The committee began holding public hearings on Friday, Feb. 15, at the Capitol, and another is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 18, at 5 p.m. If you wish to attend, please plan to arrive early and stay late. You can also submit written testimony to jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov. Starting Feb. 22, the committee will also be holding public hearings across the state. [Click here](#) to find the hearing closest to you. OBI will also reach out to members directly who will be impacted by the bill.

Proponents and opponents are continuing to lobby the bill following the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction's "road show." The committee will begin to consider amendments and changes needed to get the required votes to pass the bill. The cap and trade proposal continues to be a priority but it's unclear how its consideration will be sequenced with the majority party's other priorities including but not limited to revenue reform.

Public Hearing for Expanded Employer Liability

Tuesday, Feb. 12, the Senate Committee on Workforce held a public hearing on [SB 726](#). While OBI appreciates the sponsors' intent to ensure victims of sexual harassment are protected and given all the tools they need to feel safe, and to ensure corporate culture changes to condemn such behavior, we are concerned that the current draft of the bill exposes employers to expanded liability for employment discrimination complaints, a seven-year statute of limitations and individual liability for owners, presidents, partners and corporate officers. At the public hearing, harassment victims gave testimony, some of which was difficult to hear. Business representatives communicated technical concerns while also honoring victims. John Dudrey of Stoel Rives gave testimony representing OBI. Discussions regarding amendments are ongoing.

What Happened Last Week

Industry representatives from transportation, natural resources and manufacturing testified at the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, part of invited testimony on Feb. 11. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

The Joint Committee on Student Success Revenue Subcommittee continued its review of the gross receipts tax and value-added tax models in place in other states, focusing specifically on the Michigan Single Business Tax and the New Hampshire Business Enterprise Tax. Also, the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee held a public hearing on several bills to reduce or eliminate Oregon's estate tax.

Coming Up This Week

Feb. 18: House Committee on Business and Labor will hear several bills relating to workers' compensation. [Click here](#) for the agenda.

Feb. 19: The House Committee on Judiciary will hear [HB 2395](#), which would allow the Oregon attorney general to regulate household devices capable of connecting to the internet.

Feb. 19: The Senate Committee on Education will hold a public hearing on [SB 764](#), which aims to include class size in collective bargaining. OBI will share concerns with the committee that the proposal could force school boards to choose between hiring new teachers and other critical education supports. This proposal could result in less

instructional time or limit access to CTE and other program offerings.

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means began holding hearings on agency budgets. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will begin its budget presentations on Feb. 18. The House Committee on Revenue will hold a public hearing on bills that could limit the amount of itemized deductions an individual may claim when filing their taxes. The committee will also hold a hearing on two different bills to increase Oregon taxes on the income earned by the general partners of private equity and hedge funds, also known as carried interest.

The House Committee on Health Care will open a hearing on a suite of prescription medication bills. On [Feb. 19](#), it will address several bills applying to importing wholesale prescription drugs from Canada, and two affecting price increases for prescription medications.

Oregon Manufacturing's Evolution

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis recently released information about a study of Oregon's manufacturing industry over the years, with particular attention to tech-related manufacturing. [Click here](#) to read more.

Do you have questions about pending legislation? Feel free to contact our team.

Tax and fiscal policies: [Mike Stober](#)

Education and health care policies: [Megan Chuinard](#)

Employment and retail policies: [Paloma Sparks](#)

Environment and energy policies: Position to be filled soon. For now, send questions to [Katie Koenig](#).



Oregon Legislature In the News

[Senate approves statewide rent control](#)

[Oregon Secretary of State fines Defend Oregon for late ballots](#)



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a Small Business Budget

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Calendar of Events

February 28, 2019



OBI Lobby Day

We will have a full day of meetings with legislators, a round table lunch and attend a floor session. Please help make this day a success speaking out on behalf of all Oregon businesses.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

May 7, 2019



Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception - SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for OBI's Annual Meeting at the Salem Convention Center. We invite all our members to join us as we bring together business and civic leaders to discuss issues important to business and industry in our state. Watch for registration and more details soon.

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