



## Gov. Brown considers taking SAIF funds to pay down PERS

According to an [Oregonian article](#) published last week, Gov. Kate Brown is considering selling SAIF and using \$1.4 billion of its capital surplus to pay down the \$26.6 billion Public Employee Retirement System unfunded liability. Also apparently on the table is the potential to move SAIF's reserve funds to buy down PERS debt.

OBI is working with partners to oppose this proposal.

Using SAIF funds to subsidize PERS is not a new idea. It was [considered in 2017](#) when a task force recommended several strategies, including directing about \$500 million of SAIF capital to PERS per biennium. [OBI was against the move then, too.](#) We believe SAIF's assets, funded by employer premiums, belong to those employers throughout Oregon, and should not be used to backfill PERS costs only for government workers.

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## Statewide Cap and Trade Public Hearings

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction started its statewide tour last week, holding public hearings on [HB 2020](#) in Springfield and Medford.

Two more local hearings are coming up:

### **The Dalles**

Friday, March 1, noon to 3 p.m.

The Dalles Civic Auditorium Community Room

## **Bend**

Saturday, March 2

9 a.m. to noon

Central Oregon Community College, Cascades Hall, Room 246-248

There also will be a remote hearing where the public can testify via video conference from **Baker City** and **Newport**. That is happening today, Feb. 25.

- 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Baker County Fairgrounds
- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Oregon State University Lincoln County Extension, Thompson Conference Room

See the updated schedule by clicking [here](#). You can also submit written testimony to [jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov).

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## **Workers' compensation**

The Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) on Friday took a dive into [HB 3022](#), which aims to make changes to key components of laws defining how workers' compensation claims are handled.

Sheri Sundstrom, with Hoffman Corporation, represented OBI in public testimony and put the situation in construction terms.

“What you have before you is the rebar in the building,” she said of HB 3022’s proposed changes. “If we remove the rebar, that building most likely will fall down.”

HB 3022 changes would include:

- Broadening what the term “compensable injury” applies to
- Changing how “combined conditions” would be evaluated, especially when it comes to preexisting conditions like arthritis
- Proposing changes that would limit the role of preexisting conditions in workers' compensation claims

Many of the changes are proposed by the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, which presented a [four-page “shortened” version](#) of their proposals along with testifying to the committee.

The House Committee on Business and Labor is scheduled to hold an informational meeting on HB 3022 on [Wednesday, Feb. 27](#). Only invited testimony will be heard.

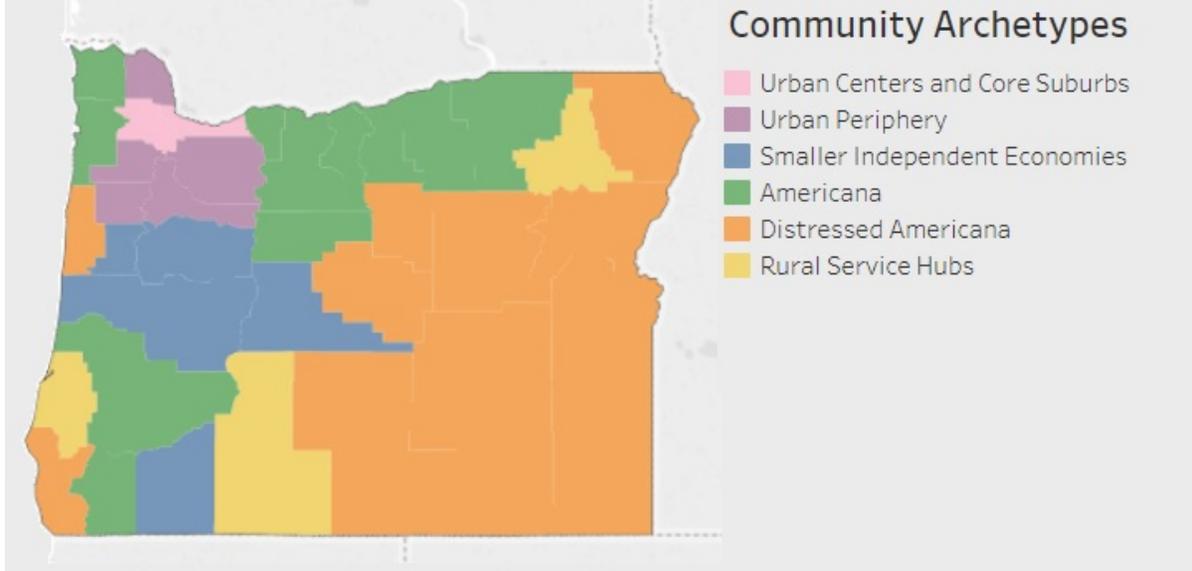
Want to learn more?

- For a memo/staff report provided to MLAC, [click here](#).
  - For the audio of the meeting, [click here](#).
  - And to see written testimony from the meeting, visit the [MLAC meetings page](#).
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## **America at Work**

Is your community ready for the coming changes in America’s economy? This week Walmart released a study looking at how prepared counties all over the nation are for the next big change: automation.

To read an introduction to the report, [click here](#). To read the full report, [click here](#). And to interact with a national map, click the image below.



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## What Happened Last Week

The Senate Committee on Education held a public hearing on [SB 764](#), which aims to add class size and caseload limits to collective bargaining. OBI member Lori Olund of Miles Fiberglass testified in opposition to the bill. Click below to see a video clip of the testimony.



The group calling itself the Coalition for the Common Good testified before the Joint Committee on Student Success revenue subcommittee. This group did not advocate for a specific form of taxation, but rather listed the options already reviewed by the subcommittee, including the Business Activity Tax option developed by OBI and partners in the Oregon Business Plan. Read The Oregonian's report [here](#).

The Senate Finance and Revenue Committee held a public hearing on a [SB 211](#) to reduce the amount of income eligible for the preferential small business tax rates established in 2013. OBI submitted [testimony](#) in opposition to the bill.

The House Committee on Energy and Environment held a public hearing on [HB 2509](#), which puts a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags in stores. It does allow customers to use paper bags for a 10-cent charge. Paloma Sparks, OBI senior director of communications and policy strategy, [testified at the hearing](#).

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## Coming Up This Week

Feb. 26: The Senate Committee on Workforce will hold a public hearing on bills related to PERS, including [SB 555](#), which eliminates the option of installment payments in the PERS individual account program when employees retire, and [SB 75](#), which allows interest earned by the PERS employer incentive fund to match lump sum payments by participating public employers in PERS.

Feb. 26: The Senate Committee on Judiciary is holding a public hearing on [SB 684](#), which requires entities that possess customers' personal information to notify customers of a

breach of security.

Feb. 28: The Senate Committee on Workforce is addressing PERS again, this time [SB 768](#), which exempts retired PERS members from limitations on reemployment if they are hired as a teacher by a school district or education service district.

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**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: [Sharla Moffett](#)



## Oregon Legislature In the News

[Greenlick removed from chair of health care committee after 'demeaning' comments](#)

[Will Oregon become the second state to ban plastic shopping bags?](#)

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## Calendar of Events

**February 28, 2019**



**OBI Lobby Day**

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](#) 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.

Oregon Business & Industry  
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