



Tax Update

OBI expects the Joint Committee on Student Success Subcommittee on Revenue to release its plans for the proposed \$2 billion tax proposal soon. OBI and its partners are watching to see if the committee moves forward with a gross receipts tax (GRT) or the value-added business activity tax (BAT) option developed by the Oregon Business Plan partners, including OBI.

Last week OBI responded to a letter from Sen. Mark Hass and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, the revenue subcommittee cochairs, and asked the subcommittee to continue looking at the BAT option. [Click here](#) to read the letter, which lays out other components of a fiscal package OBI would look for.

[Click here](#) to read The Oregonian's coverage of these developments.

OBI also joined a letter signed by 22 business organizations expressing concern about a GRT. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

Carbon Reduction Bill Amendments Released

Today the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction released amendments to [HB 2020](#), the proposed carbon reduction bill. The amendments document is more than twice the length of the original bill. [Click here](#) to read what those changes entail. OBI is working with partners to analyze the amendments.

Paid Family Leave

We hope members were able to join OBI in testifying or submitting testimony on [HB 3031](#), which was addressed at hearings today, including public testimony at 6 p.m.

In our [call to action](#) last week, we asked OBI members to join our opposition to this bill, which threatens to require businesses with as little as a single employee to provide paid leave up to 32 weeks. It also:

- Applies to businesses large and small (any with more than one employee)
- Mandates 32 weeks of paid and protected family and medical leave
- Establishes state-run family and medical leave program and insurance fund
- Both employer and employee contribute to fund, regardless of existing benefits

- Expands the definition of “family”

Written comments can be submitted at hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov. You can connect to legislators through the OBI website by clicking [here for senators](#) and [here for representatives](#). For more information and talking points, [click here](#).

Expanded Penalties for Age Discrimination Claims

OBI testified against a bill that would expand penalties for age discrimination. OBI explained to the House Committee on Business and Labor that age discrimination was already prohibited under both state and federal law. Paloma Sparks, OBI general counsel, also gave an interview with OPB’s Think Out Loud. [Click here](#) to listen to an audio clip.

Oregon Legislature

What Happened Last Week

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission held hearings throughout the week on [HB 5024](#), its budget bill. Several more are scheduled this week and next. OBI provided testimony in support of additional investments in the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), respectively. Click these links to read our testimony on the [PUSF](#) and the [CCSF](#).

The Senate Revenue Committee held a public hearing on [SB 213](#) and [SB 214](#), which deal with connection information to the federal tax code, on March 21. Legislative staff is working on an amendment that would make the bill language clearer. OBI expects another public hearing in the coming weeks.

OBI joined the Oregon Trucking Association and Associated General Contractors to oppose [HB 2007](#), which would create new diesel engine requirements and ban the use of diesel engines in medium- and heavy-duty trucks built before 2010. This would be particularly burdensome for small businesses.

OBI submitted [written testimony](#) in support of [SB 855](#) and [SB 856](#), both of which had a public hearing on March 19 at the Senate Committee on Business and General Government. SB 855 directs the state’s licensure boards to develop pathways for highly skilled and educated immigrants and refugees to be more easily re-credentialed in Oregon. SB 856 establishes a new Oregon Office of New Americans in the Governor’s office.

Coming Up This Week

March 26: the Senate and House committees will hold hearings on two bills which would prohibit the sale, purchase, or use of certain pesticides, [SB 853](#) and [HB 3058](#). OBI will submit testimony in opposition to the bills.

The Senate Committee on Workforce will hold a public hearing to discuss possible changes to the pay equity law with [SB 123](#). OBI and the OBI Employment Practices Committee have proposed changes to the law to help employers with compliance.

March 28: The House Committee on Healthcare will hold a public hearing and possible work session on [HB 2269](#). OBI expects the committee will discuss this [amendment](#) to the bill that imposes assessments on businesses that employ 50 or more employees to fund health care.

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

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

Education and health care policies: [Nathaniel Brown](#)

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

Environment and energy policies: [Sharla Moffett](#)



Oregon Legislature In the News

[The number of Oregon leaders challenging organized labor in public employee pensions is growing](#)

[Oregon lawmakers say they want campaign donation limits – just not the ones voters already approved](#)

[Oregon lawmakers consider raising own pay by 63 percent to boost diversity](#)

[Oregon initiative petition would allow pot cafes, off-the-job use protections](#)

[Oregon House approves 10-year ban on ‘fracking’ for oil, natural gas exploration](#)

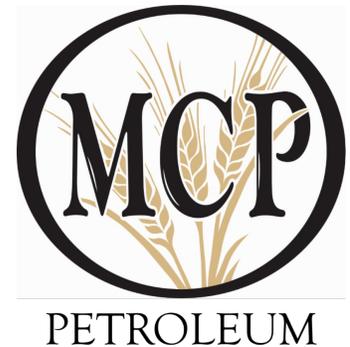
[Oregon moves to permanently ban offshore oil drilling along coastline](#)

[House Democrats forward a bill opponents call a ‘union wish list’](#)

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 [Mike Beyrouy](#) 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





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Big Business Options on
a Small Business Budget

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Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATE

OBI Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception – May 7

BUILDING OREGON: IT STARTS WITH JOBS



Honoring Senator Betsy Johnson with the first Jobs Champion Award for her work with the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center

Mark your calendars for OBI's Annual Meeting at the Salem Convention Center, where we will honor Scappoose Sen. Betsy Johnson with our first Jobs Champion Award. Other speakers will include Gov. Kate Brown, House Speaker Tina Kotek and a panel of Oregon business leaders. We invite all our members to join us as we bring together business and civic leaders to discuss how business builds great Oregon jobs. Watch for registration and more details soon.

Realtor Day at the Capitol

The Oregon Association of Realtors invites OBI members to join in Realtor Day at the Capitol on April 2. The day is packed with education, meetings, lunch and an end of day reception. If you'd like to attend, register by [clicking here](#) or on the image. On the registration, under the NRDS ID field, please enter 999999999.

REALTOR[®] DAY



AT THE CAPITOL



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APRIL 2, 2019

STAND UP FOR YOUR INDUSTRY!

Register Today! www.eventleaf.com/2019realtorday

Labor & Employment Seminar

OBI is one of the sponsors for the 36th annual Best Practices for Best Employers labor and employment seminar put on by Lane Powell.

The event will cover important topics for employers and businesses, including drug testing, federal and state disability laws, immigration, privacy laws, employee benefits updates, new hire best practices, how to conduct an effective workplace investigation and new federal, state and local legal developments.

- When: Wednesday, May 1
- Where: The Duniway Portland

Special Discount to OBI members: As a benefit of your membership, you will receive a special discounted rate of \$50 (regular registration fee is \$110 prepaid online, or \$130 at door). To get the discounted \$50 registration rate for the seminar, register online and enter the code **OBIMEMBER** when prompted at checkout.

For more information and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

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