



Annual Meeting

More than 200 people came to the Oregon Business & Industry Annual Meeting to celebrate jobs in Oregon.

Many came for the big event: Celebrating Sen. Betsy Johnson and presenting her with the first Jobs Champion Award.

The big day included a keynote address from Gov. Kate Brown, and two panel talks from legislators and business leaders. Special thanks to House Speaker Tina Kotek, Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger and Sen. Arnie Roblan for speaking on the legislative panel. And thank you to our business panel: Henry Balensifer, LEKTRO Inc., Lori Olund, Miles Fiberglass and Composites, Chad Paulson, Blount International, and Lee Weber, ATI.

And thank you to all the members, legislators and guests who attended!

Take a look at this video tribute to Sen. Johnson!



Remembering Ken Austin

We at Oregon Business & Industry were saddened to learn of the passing of Ken Austin, who, with his wife Joan, founded A-dec, a global leader in the dental office furniture and equipment industry based Newberg. Mr. and Mrs. Austin had a profound impact on Oregon, through the jobs they created at A-dec as well as their extensive philanthropic

engagement.

We send our deepest condolences to the A-dec family. OBI, and its predecessor Association of Oregon Industries (AOI), and A-dec have been partners for 50 years and we consider them part of our family, too. Our thoughts are with our OBI Chair Scott Parrish and his wife Loni, who is Mr. and Mrs. Austin's daughter.

Mr. Austin passed away on May 1, in Newberg. He was 87 years old. His wife, Joan, previously passed in 2013. To read a tribute to Mr. Austin, visit A-dec's website: www.a-dec.com/ken-austin.



OBI Chair Scott Parrish and Ken Austin. Photo from A-dec.

Tax Update

Last week the House passed the \$2 billion preK-12 education tax package with a 37-21 vote. It is now in the Senate and expected to pass as early as this week.

A \$2 billion tax is a heavy hit to Oregon businesses, but it has been clear passing a tax increase was a top priority for legislative leaders this session and, with a Democratic supermajority, likely to happen. As a result, OBI focused on mitigating the impact on business sectors subject to the pyramiding characteristics of a gross receipts tax and making other efforts to reduce the overall \$5.6 billion in new taxes and fees on business in play this session. Agreements with legislative leaders on matters related to these other costs, as well as considerations, led OBI to indicate a “neutral” position on the tax provisions of the education package. OBI did not support the bill.

[Click here](#) to read OBI's statement about the bill.

Oregon Legislature

What Happened Last Week

- [HB 2395](#), which requires security for devices connected to the internet, had a public hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary [Monday](#), where OBI voiced a neutral stance on the bill after several months of negotiations with the attorney general's office.
- [SB 379](#), which keeps employers from disciplining workers using any lawful substance, including marijuana, was referred to the Senate Judiciary on Monday. Sending the bill back to committee after the April deadline means the bill is now

dead. OBI opposed the bill and worked with a coalition of business interests to communicate our concerns to legislators.

- [HB 2509](#), the single-use plastic bag ban, had a first reading before the Senate on Monday, and was referred to Senate Committee on Rules on Tuesday. It is unclear whether there is support for the bill in the Senate.
- [SB 684](#) relates to vendors notifying customers and the attorney general of a security breach. The House Committee on Judiciary voted [Tuesday](#) to move the bill to the House floor. OBI is neutral on the bill as currently drafted.
- [HB 3022](#) is the workers' compensation bill which OBI worked on with MLAC. On Wednesday the House Committee on Rules voted to move the bill to the House floor with [amendments](#). The bill passed the House on Tuesday, May 7.
- [HB 2593](#), which requires employers to allow for breast milk pumping or feeding, had a second reading in the House on Thursday. [HB 2341](#), which bans employers from denying employment, or failing to make reasonable accommodations, for employees relating to pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, should be up for a vote in the Senate soon. OBI negotiated with the sponsors to amend the bills.
- The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction scheduled a work session on Friday where it discussed [HB 2020](#), the carbon reduction bill, and [HB 3425](#). If the state adopts the carbon reduction program, HB 3425 would give credit to households to mitigate the expected higher cost on fuel. HB 2020 is scheduled for a work session to adopt the new [amendments](#).



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

[Proposed health tax on Oregon employers likely dead](#)

[Oregon House approves \\$2 billion in new business taxes for schools](#)

[Oregon lawmakers advance measures aimed at reducing harassment in the Legislature](#)

[Oregon Senate Oks temporary freeze on pot production](#)

Non-Road Diesel Engine Survey

Please take the non-road diesel engine survey the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting. This survey will give state-specific data and keep the DEQ from

using the EPA's default estimates. The EPA defaults likely overestimate emissions and provide an unrealistic picture of diesel engine emissions in Oregon. The survey specifically asks for numbers of portable diesel generators and compressors used in Oregon for normal business operations. Businesses, both those who use diesel engines and those who don't, can help to provide the most accurate data possible. Survey information is confidential and respondents will not be known to DEQ.

[Click here](#) to take the survey.

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.



PETROLEUM

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



OBI HealthChoice
Big Business Options on
a Small Business Budget

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The banner features a background image of a stethoscope and a white lab coat. The text is white and centered.

**Smart Oregon
Businesses Choose
OBI CompSAFE**

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The banner features a background image of a diverse group of business professionals standing together. The text is white and centered.

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