



Legislative Session in Limbo

As you have probably seen in the media, work in the Oregon Senate stopped last week when Senate Republicans walked out of the Capitol in protest over the pending cap-and-trade bill. Without their presence, the Senate falls short of its 20-member quorum requirement and cannot act on any pending bills. Talks are continuing, but it is unclear whether the Senate Republicans will return before the June 30 constitutionally required adjournment. Meanwhile, the Oregon House continues to meet and advance bills, sending many to the Senate, where they remain in limbo. Several major bills remain unfinished because of a lack of Senate action. Gov. Kate Brown has said she might bring legislators back for a special session as early as July 1 if Senate Republicans don't return to complete the session's work.

Oregon's cap-and-trade legislation has garnered [national media attention](#) and local protests. Last week, hundreds of individuals representing [Oregon's timber industry](#) converged on the Oregon Capitol for an impromptu protest. Court Street, which goes in front of both the Capitol and OBI's headquarters, was lined with logging trucks. Activists on the other side of the issue also promoting their position.

It is unclear how this issue will be resolved, or if the cap-and-trade bill will be amended to address issues that have been raised by the Senate Republican leadership. OBI has expressed concern about the impact of the bill on the manufacturing and transportation economies and urged lawmakers to amend HB 2020 so that it can be passed this session.



Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 2005](#), the paid family leave bill, passed out of the House last Thursday with bipartisan support on a 45-13 vote. The bill reflects negotiations by OBI and partners to ensure employer concerns are addressed. The bill would cap the number of leave days an employee could take; establish a 40% employer/60% employee cost share; exclude small business (under 25 employees) from being subject to the tax, and allow for private plans. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the bill. HB 2005 is now waiting for action in the Senate.



Campaign Finance

Campaign finance reform continues to be a topic of conversation among legislators this session. Last week, the Senate Rules Committee completed work on [SJR 18](#), a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution which would allow for campaign finance limits. The bill now awaits a vote in the Senate. If passed by the full Senate and then the House, SJR 18 will require voter approval in 2020 before it can take effect. Additionally, the Rules Committee sent out [HB 2716](#), which would make new requirements for independent expenditure disclosures in political advertising, and [HB 2983](#), which would require disclosure of donors to organizations that communicate in favor or in opposition to candidates or measures, affecting many nonprofit organizations. [HB 2714](#), which sets campaign finance limits, is not expected to win final passage this session. OBI opposed that bill because it would create an uneven playing field, where certain groups would be exempted from limits that others would have to follow. If the bills are not passed this session, we expect them to be brought up again in a special session or in the 2020 session.

Technical Tax Changes

This morning, the House passed [HB 2164](#), the bill that extends expiring tax credits and makes technical tax changes to the \$2 billion Student Success Act that passed earlier this legislative session. The bill passed 48-11, with strong bipartisan support. A summary of the technical changes is available [here](#). OBI has worked closely with our partners to ensure

issues we identified as priorities for technical corrections during the tax negotiations made it into the bill.

Cigarette Tax

The House voted to refer [HB 2270](#), the proposed cigarette tax, to voters. The proposal would increase the cigarette tax by \$2/pack (raising it from \$1.33 to \$3.33) and subjects vaping product to a tax equal to 65% of their wholesale price. Funds raised by the legislation will be dedicated to Oregon's Medicaid program. A summary of the bill is available [here](#). If it is passed by the Senate, the proposal will appear on the November 2020 ballot and voters will determine whether or not it takes effect.

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

[Oregon House Passes Oil Train Safety Regulations](#)

[New Oregon Workplace Fairness Act Brings Sweeping Changes for Employers](#)

[Drive to limit Oregon campaign money sputters to a stop](#)

[Cap and trade passes Oregon House after marathon debate](#)

[Oregon lawmakers set to vote on sending tobacco tax hike to ballot](#)

[Oregonians Will Receive a Minimum Wage Increase On July 1](#)

[Opinion: New tax puts Oregon schools, students on stronger pathway to future](#)

[Oregon Senate Republicans walkout could kill hundreds of bills](#)

[Oregon House Approves Paid Family Medical Leave](#)

Non-road Diesel Engine Survey

Please consider filling out this survey from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on non-road diesel engine use. In 2017, OBI and other business organizations negotiated a compromise to the diesel phase-out bill, in part asking that the state complete a survey of existing diesel uses. This survey represents the effort to collect more data on non-road diesel engines. OBI is promoting the [survey](#) in our various weekly and monthly newsletters to assist the DEQ in collecting Oregon-specific information on diesel generators and compressors. Without state-specific information, DEQ would utilize EPA's default data that likely overestimate emissions and provide an unrealistic picture of air pollution levels in the

state. This is a blind, confidential survey and will not be used to create an equipment registry. Both businesses who utilize diesel compressors and generators and those who don't should take the survey to ensure the data collected is accurate.

[Click Here for Survey](#)

OBI HealthChoice
Big Business Options on a Small Business Budget

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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.



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.



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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



Calendar of Events

Unemployment Insurance Conference

June 27 is your chance to get the scoop on unemployment insurance strategies to improve your bottom line. The National Unemployment Insurance Policy Conference is coming to Portland and offers a unique opportunity for businesses and companies to learn about unemployment tax, benefits and policy to 2020 and beyond.

OBI has a special single-day pass rate for members for June 27. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- What: National Unemployment Insurance Policy Conference
- When: June 26-28

- Where: Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel
- Event information: www.uwcstrategy.org/conferences/

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