



With the Legislature wound down, we will continue our Capitol Central newsletter on a monthly basis.

More Than 550 People Expected At Statesman Dinner

OBI's Statesman Dinner is sold out, with more than 550 people expected to attend. The event will be held Monday, Oct. 7, at the Portland State University Viking Pavilion, and our keynote speaker will be Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski.

We are pleased to honor this year's Statesmen, retired Gov. Ted Kulongoski and legendary Oregon businessman and civic leader Gerry Frank.

We may be able to accommodate individual tickets. If you would like to come, but do not have seats, email [Morgan Beltz](mailto:Morgan.Beltz@obi.org).

Brown Visits OBI Board

Gov. Kate Brown visited the OBI Board at its September meeting, looking back on the 2019 legislative session and forward to what comes next in 2020 and beyond.

Responding to board member questions, Brown covered a number of topics, including the new corporate activities tax on businesses created by the 2019 Legislature, paid family leave, cap and trade, wildfire mitigation, higher education funding, campaign finance reform, SAIF funding, PERS reform and cost containment, and transportation, including efforts to restart discussions about a new I-5 bridge over the Columbia River.





Legislative Days

For the first time since the 2019 legislative session adjourned June 30, the Oregon Capitol was busy Sept. 16-18, as lawmakers returned to Salem for “legislative days” meetings.

The biggest news was a shakeup in House Republican leadership. Rep. Carl Wilson, R-Grants Pass, has been replaced as House Republican leader by Rep. Christine Drazan, R-Canby. Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, was elected as the deputy leader, and Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, was elected whip. Click [here](#) to see the full leadership list.

The newly named Senate Labor and Business Committee (formerly the Senate Workforce Committee) held informational hearings on the laws around prevailing wage in construction projects. The Bureau of Labor and Industries [presented](#) to the committee. This was prompted by a push by the Oregon State Building Trades Council to require prevailing wages on private construction in enterprise zones. Of late, the unions are also targeting renewable energy projects and data farms. Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Portland, chair of Senate Labor and Business, has established a workgroup which will meet every week for the next month to discuss possible 2020 legislation. OBI is on the workgroup and will keep our members updated as this issue develops.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Environment heard an update on the Jordan Cove LNG project. Legislators representing the southern Oregon coast conveyed their frustration that this project has been subject to far more scrutiny than most other projects reviewed by the state in the past. Sen. Arnie Roblan and Rep. Caddy McKeown, both Democrats from Coos Bay, pushed the agencies to consider the benefits the project could bring to coastal communities. OBI attended the hearing and will continue to monitor the issue as it moves forward.

Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Cap and Trade Rulemaking

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is fast-tracking a greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting rule that lays a foundation for a cap and trade program. OBI objected to this new regulatory scheme, which would require independent third-party verification of GHG reporting, since Oregon currently does not have a carbon-pricing program. We expressed serious concern with the accelerated timeline for the proposed rule and DEQ’s apparent backdoor attempt to implement carbon reduction policy in the absence of a legislative mandate and after the failure of HB 2020, the cap and trade bill, in the 2019 session. OBI alerted several legislators about DEQ’s draft rule and will continue to closely track this issue. Read OBI’s comments to [DEQ here](#).

Corporate Activity Tax Town Hall Meetings

The Oregon Department of Revenue is hosting town hall meetings throughout the state on the new corporate activity tax (CAT). This is your chance to voice questions, concerns and suggestions on this complex tax passed by the 2019 Legislature.

- Bend – 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1
- Redmond – 7 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2
- Hermiston – 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2
- Boardman – 7 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 3
- Portland – 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 3
- Salem – 7:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 4

For a full list of the meetings, [click here](#). For more information on the CAT work, or to sign up for updates from the revenue department, [click here](#). You can send questions and feedback directly to the CAT policy team at cat.help@dor.oregon.gov.

OBI will remain engaged throughout the rulemaking process. Please contact [Mike Stober](#) if you have questions or would like more information.



Capitol News

[Negotiations falter, strikes loom for 29,000 Northwest workers](#)

[No Special Session to 'fix' Oregon's Death Penalty Law](#)

[Oregon GOP Shake-Up](#)

[Brown Reflects on 2019 Session During Lake Oswego Appearance](#)

[Oregon Public Records Advocate Quits, Citing Interference](#)

[Gov. Kate Brown's Top Lawyer Declines Appeals Court Seat](#)

[Commission Taps Strickler to Lead ODOT](#)

[Hass Running for Secretary of State](#)

[Oregon Transportation Commission Approves \\$62 million in Improvements to Public Transportation](#)

[Oregon and Washington: We'll start building a new Interstate Bridge by 2025](#)



Upcoming Events

Manufacturing Day and Manufacturing Week

Manufacturing Day is coming up on Oct. 4. OBI will be celebrating all week by profiling some of the great makers in Oregon. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [social media](#) the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. If your company is doing anything special for the week or the day, please [let us know](#).



2020 OBI Annual Meeting -- Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 13, for the OBI Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Salem! Details to follow soon.



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