Legislative Bill Deadline

April 9 at midnight was the deadline for bills to make it out of committee in the 2019 Legislature or hit the end of the road. The OBI team is concentrating its efforts on the remaining bills, including those relating to paid family leave, workers compensation and many more. This deadline did not apply to some bills, like those relating to taxation or under joint committees, such as carbon reduction, education funding and the overall state budget.

OPB has a rundown of the big topics in this article.

Gov. Brown proposes raiding SAIF to offset PERS costs

In an appearance today before the Joint Ways and Means capital construction subcommittee, Gov. Kate Brown laid out her plan for alleviating the impact of growing PERS costs on Oregon’s K-12 school districts. The plan includes taking almost $500 million from SAIF reserves to finance a PERS offset account for schools. Click here to read The Oregonian’s account of the governor’s plan.

OBI has joined other business organizations to strongly oppose raiding SAIF to pay for PERS relief. SAIF’s reserves are the result of premiums paid by employers, largely small businesses, to protect injured workers. Taking those funds could result in higher premiums and a reduction in safety training, which is a key component of Oregon’s successful workers’ comp program. Please consider emailing your legislators to say you oppose taking funds from SAIF to prop up the broken PERS system. Click here for a list of Representatives and here for a list of Senators.

$5.67 Billion

Taxes, fees and new programs could cost Oregon’s economy $5.67 billion over the next two years. Working with partners in the business lobby, OBI
tabulated the bill and released a graphic to illustrate the issue. Join us in telling the Legislature this is too much! Click here to connect with the Brighter Oregon coalition. So far this session, Brighter Oregon, OBI’s fiscal policy advocacy platform, has generated more than 9,000 emails to lawmakers. Your voice matters, so please participate in our Brighter Oregon advocacy.

Carbon Reduction Bill

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction continues to review amendments introduced at the end of March. The -31 omnibus amendments totaled 130 pages, essentially replacing the original 55-page HB 2020. More than 30 additional amendments have been filed. This week, both Monday and Friday work sessions were cancelled. To catch up on past work sessions, or to see when the next is scheduled, click here.

Regulatory Updates

DEQ Rulemakings Update

DEQ published its Draft Recommended Procedures for Conducting Toxic Air Contaminant Health Risk Assessments in March, asking for informal public comments. This document will provide guidance in carrying out risk assessments, which will determine how emissions information translates into risk to communities near industrial facilities. Results of the risk assessments will ultimately determine what actions, if any, facilities must take to reduce emissions. OBI is preparing comments to submit by the April 15 deadline.
DEQ will soon begin the rulemaking process on the 1200-Z rulemaking, which applies to general industrial stormwater permit renewal. OBI nominated members with expertise on the 1200-Z permit to serve on the committee. DEQ will hold the first advisory committee meeting on April 23.

OBI represented industrial dischargers on the Willamette Valley Mercury Variance Advisory Committee at DEQ’s April 4 meeting. Late this year or early next year, water quality permittees will be assigned enforceable mercury effluent limits in their permits. The challenge is that the vast majority of mercury in Oregon is generated by atmospheric deposition from other countries, but water quality standards still require industrial dischargers to minimize mercury. The final meeting of the advisory committee will be held in
U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement

The National Association of Manufacturers is encouraging Oregon manufacturers to support the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement, or USMCA. NAM supports congressional passage of the agreement, as it encourages North American partnerships and presents a unified front against China’s trade practices. To show your support, click here. Or click the image below for a fact sheet about the USMCA.

Key USMCA provisions to help modernize 21st-century North American trade:

**Strengthens and Modernizes America’s Innovation Engine**
Manufacturers in the United States are innovation leaders and need strong rules to protect their ideas and inventions—the USMCA provides it.
- The USMCA includes best-in-class intellectual property rules to protect the full range of U.S. manufacturing inventions and innovations from foreign theft or misappropriation.
- The USMCA sets new standards for the 21st-century digital economy that foster continued innovation and prohibit distortive foreign government measures that undermine it.

**Expands U.S. Manufacturing Access to Canada and Mexico**
Manufacturers in the United States need open access to reach foreign customers in our two largest export markets, Canada and Mexico—the USMCA provides it.
- The USMCA ensures manufacturers can sell their products duty-free into Canada and Mexico, including new access for important food and remanufactured goods.
- The USMCA eliminates red tape at the border and makes it easier for small and medium-sized businesses to sell into both Canada and Mexico.

**Levels the Playing Field**
Manufacturers in the United States want fair competition with the same rules applied at home and abroad—the USMCA provides it.
- The USMCA raises standards, improves transparency and prohibits anti-U.S. discrimination and anti-competitive activity from foreign governments.
- The USMCA provides the same binding enforcement for all obligations, from commercial issues to labor and environment.

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Oregon Tech Canyon Creek Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Lab

Oregon Tech is celebrating the grand opening of its Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Lab. The event will take place on Friday, April 26, 2019, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm at 25749 SW Canyon Creek Rd, Building C, Suite 600, Wilsonville, Oregon.
Engineering Lab in Wilsonville on Friday, April 26. President Naganathan will open the event at 1:15 p.m., with speakers presenting, followed by student demonstrations in the lab.

The new lab will help meet the dramatic increase in applications for the accredited Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree program, and the continuing interest in the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology programs.

To attend, please RSVP here by April 22.

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Portland Among Top 10 Best Manufacturing Cities

Kempler Industries recently named its top 10 cities for manufacturing in the U.S. and Portland ranked No. 5. Kempler analyzed Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau information on 236 U.S. cities, looking at four factors: total number of manufacturing jobs, year-over-year job growth, median income for manufacturing and median household costs. Click here To read the full Gritdaily.com article.

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Oregon Manufacturers in the News

Changes to Cap and Trade legislation
Best Cities for Manufacturing Employees
Plan to limit Oregon’s pot supply rejected by Senate

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Resources

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 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

Calendar of Events

OBI Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception – SAVE THE DATE – May 7

Please join Oregon Business & Industry for the 2019 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at the Salem Convention Center. Registration is open! Click the image to register.

We invite all our members and partners to join us as we bring together economic and civic leaders to discuss how business builds great Oregon jobs.

OBI is honoring Sen. Betsy Johnson with the first Jobs Champion Award for her work in establishment of the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center in Scappoose. Johnson is committed to keeping Oregon’s workforce trained for the future.

Speakers at the event will include Gov. Kate Brown, House Speaker Tina Kotek, Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger, House Republican Leader Carl Wilson and Sen. Arnie Roblan. A panel of business leaders will discuss the outlook for growing employment in Oregon.

Reception Sponsors

Jobs Champion Sponsor

Event Sponsor
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](#).