OBI Board Chair Scott Parrish reminds members why PERS is a looming threat to Oregon, and what OBI is doing to address PERS reform. Click here to read more.

Share your thoughts and perspectives on these and other issues at scottparrish@oregonbusinessindustry.com.

OBI News

$5.67 Billion

The Legislature has proposed several new taxes or tax increases. OBI has calculated the full cost of all of those taxes - $5.67 billion.

Over the next two years, the proposed $2 billion consumption tax, along with programs like paid family leave, carbon reduction and Medicaid will add to various taxes on businesses.
Feel free to share this graphic with partners. OBI is sending out a message: $5.67 billion is too much in taxes for Oregonians.

OBI Annual Meeting – 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 find out more.

OBI is honoring Sen. Betsy Johnson with the first Jobs Champion Award. OBI celebrates her commitment to keeping Oregon’s workforce trained for the future and our manufacturing industries strong through her establishment of the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center in Scappoose.

Speakers include: Gov. Kate Brown, House Speaker Tina Kotek, Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger, House Republican Leader Carl Wilson, Sen. Arnie Roblan and a panel of Oregon business leaders.

Bev Clarno Is Oregon’s New Secretary of State

Bev Clarno, former Speaker of the House and Senate Republican Leader, is Oregon’s new Secretary of State. Gov. Kate Brown
announced her appointment of Clarno on March 29 and Clarno was sworn in on March 31. Clarno, of Redmond, is a Republican, aligning with the requirement she is of the same party as the man she is replacing, Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, who passed away last month.

Capitol Bill Deadline

March 29 was the end for some bills to get through the 2019 Legislature. Any bill that had not been scheduled for a work session was considered dead as of 11:59 p.m.. Legislators have until April 9 to vote the rest of the bills out of committee, with some exceptions. Culling the herd of 2019 bills means the OBI team will focus in on legislation that has the most potential to affect Oregon businesses and employers.

Some committees, such as those addressing budgets and revenue, are not included in the deadline. OBI continues to stay deeply involved on issues such as taxes and PERS reform. Read the Oregonian article about the deadline and some of the bills that did not make it by clicking here.

February New Members

CML Inc. DBA Tierra Rose    LINE-X of Southern Oregon
Columbia Investments, Ltd.    Mitchell Lewis & Staver Co.
Hillside Landscape Maintenance, Inc.    Pacific Benefit Consultants
J.C. Penney Company, Inc.    Premier Pacific Roofing Inc.
Juul Labs    Rhodes-Warden Insurance, Inc.
Kevin Duyck Farms    Rovers Security Co.

Member News

Help us tell your story. Send us your news at communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com. Here are a few headlines from OBI members.

- Pacific Power offers new opt-out plan to counter smart meter concerns
- Diamler Trucks to buy controlling interest in Torc Robotics to advance automation
- Manure is big business at Oregon’s largest dairy with conversion to natural gas
- Construction industry celebrates crime prevention efforts
- World’s first mass plywood panel approved for 18-story buildings
Legislator Information

OBI has an easy way to contact your legislator on our website. On the Legislative Session page you can find a listing of Oregon Representatives and Oregon Senators, along with their contact information.

LegalPLUS Program

Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provide 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

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 Beyrouty for more information.

Calendar of Events

36th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar

Best Practices for Best Employers™

Portland | May 1

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 Hotel 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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