



Regulatory Updates

Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

Oregon could ban single-use plastic bags in stores statewide. The House Committee on Energy and Environment held a public hearing on [HB 2509](#), on Feb 19. Paloma Sparks, OBI senior director of communications and policy strategy, testified at the hearing.

“This bill is about all retailers,” Sparks said. “Big, small, everyone will have to comply with this.”

She outlined concerns about the consistency of paper bag fees in different areas of the state, noting that the bill would impose a 10-cent fee on paper bags. Sparks also pointed out some items other than checkout bags, like garment bags, are made of plastic and are not addressed in the bill.

OBI will continue to track the bill and ensure our retail member concerns are heard. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

“Internet of things” and security



Another bill before the Legislature is [HB 2395](#), which applies to the “internet of things,” or all devices that connect to the internet, also known as smart devices. HB 2395 gives the attorney general the authority to require internet-connected devices be equipped with security features to protect consumers’ privacy. The House Committee on Judiciary held a hearing on it on [Feb. 19](#). OBI is working with partners on the bill and expects amendments will remove liability for retailers.

Tax update

In the next few weeks, the Joint Committee on Student Success revenue subcommittee is expected to begin developing a tax bill to raise as much as \$2 billion in new revenue. Under consideration are gross-receipts tax models, similar to the Ohio commercial activities tax and the Washington B&O tax. Legislators also are considering the value-added-based business activities tax developed by OBI and our partners under the Oregon Business Plan. OBI continues to raise concerns about the pyramiding impact of a gross receipts tax, and we have alerted lawmakers about how these kinds of taxes on sales impact low-margin businesses like retail. OBI has developed a tax “calculator” to assist businesses in determining how both a gross receipts tax and OBI’s business activities tax mode would impact them. [Click here](#) to access the calculator. And, on Feb. 7, Sandra McDonough, OBI’s President & CEO, and Mike Stober, Government Affairs Director, testified before the revenue subcommittee to discuss the different tax proposals. [Click here](#) to view their testimony.



Other happenings in the Legislature

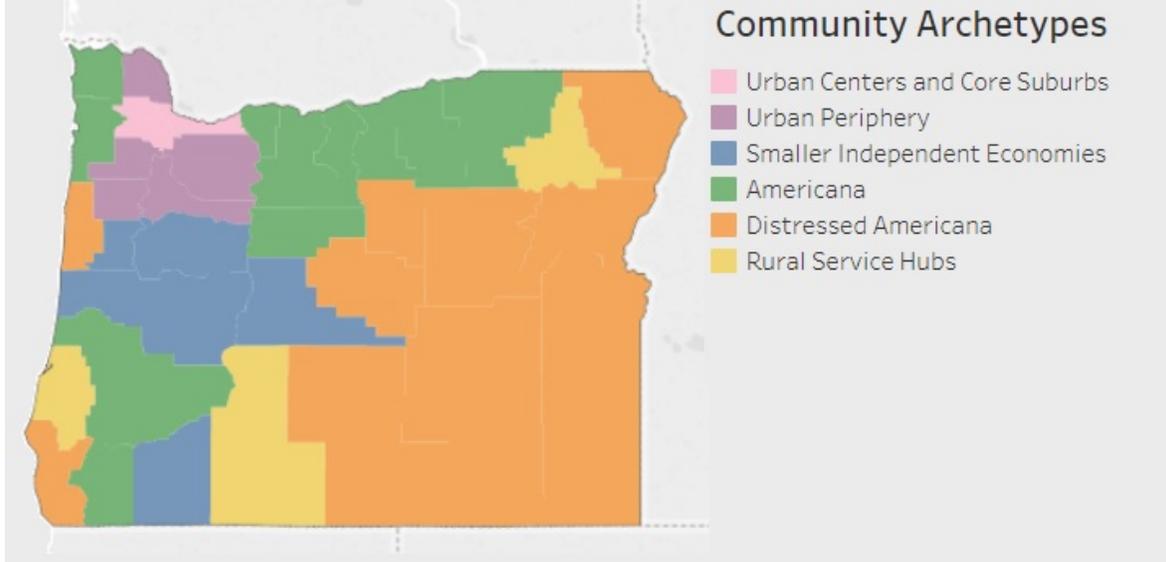
[SB 684](#) requires entities that possess customers’ personal information to notify customers of a security breach. The Senate Committee on Judiciary held a public meeting on this bill on [Feb. 26](#). OBI participated in workgroup negotiations that created this bill and we are watching its progress through the Legislature.

[HB 2772](#) would require manufacturers and retailers to fund a complex household hazardous waste stewardship program overseen by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). While the program itself is cumbersome and duplicative, OBI’s primary concern is that manufacturers and retailers could be subjected to \$25,000 per day penalties for labeling requirements. Click [here](#) to read OBI’s Feb. 7 testimony.

America at Work

Is your community ready for the coming changes in America’s economy? Walmart released a study looking at how prepared counties all over the nation are for the next big change: automation.

To read an introduction to the report, [click here](#). To read the full report, [click here](#). And to interact with a national map, click the image below.



Retail News

Artificial Intelligence in retail and consumer products from the National Retail Federation: [The coming AI revolution in retail and consumer products](#)

Learn how to protect your business from gift card fraud: [Battling bot-driven gift card abuse](#)



Calendar of Events

May 7, 2019



Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception - SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for OBI's Annual Meeting at the Salem Convention Center. We invite all our members to join us as we bring together business and civic leaders to discuss issues important to business and industry in our state. Watch for registration and more details soon.



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