



OBI Annual Meeting - May 7

2019 OBI Annual Meeting

Building Oregon: It Starts With Jobs

 Honoring Senator
Betsy Johnson

May 7 | 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Salem Convention Center

REGISTER 

Please join Oregon Business & Industry for the 2019 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at the Salem Convention Center. That's less than two weeks away!

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

[Click here](#) to find out more about the event.



News from the Oregon Capitol

Plastic Bag Ban

[HB 2509](#), the proposed ban on single-use plastic bags at checkout stands, continues progress in the Legislature. On [Monday, April 22, the House Committee on Rules](#) voted to move the bill to the House floor.

The committee also adopted amendments, clarifying the local preemption provisions and adding garment bags to the list of items excluded from the ban.

The bill includes five-cent charge for paper bags, which is meant to be a base fee. Monday's amendments also allowed local government (including the 17 cities that already have bans) to charge more if they have already instituted a higher charge, like 10 cents.



The bill passed the House floor today 42-18. It now heads to the Senate.

The Legislature's proposed ban on polystyrene takeout containers, better known as Styrofoam containers, [narrowly passed the House](#) on the second try on Tuesday, April 23. [HB 2883](#) now heads to the Senate.

Tax Update

Legislators continue to work on revenue proposals to help fund education. Legislators are crafting proposals to raise \$2 billion per biennium. Last night the Joint Committee on Student Success discussed an [amendment](#) to establish a .49 percent tax on all sales with the ability to deduct up to 25 percent of business inputs. Groceries and fuel are exempted under the latest proposal. OBI has been engaging with legislative leadership about our concerns that businesses need to be able to deduct more of their costs so that businesses with narrow profit margins aren't unduly burdened. Click [here](#) to watch the hearing.

Employer Assessment

[HB 2269 A](#), the bill requiring employers to contribute to healthcare costs, continues in the Legislature. Lawmakers aim to fill a \$120 million gap in Medicaid funding by imposing fees on employers.

OBI opposes the bill and on Monday, April 22, Paloma Sparks, OBI general counsel, testified to the House Committee on Revenue about OBI's objections.

Those supporting the bill claimed the fee on businesses would amount to 50 cents per hour for employees who work more than eight hours a week, but that fee is not written in the bill. Instead it gives the proposed Health Policy Board authority in setting the fee. That, along with the unknown on how the board will function and how employers will be expected to comply, gives OBI "grave concerns," Sparks said. The bill could also impose record keeping requirements on employers and hold them financially accountable (through the fee) when employees refuse the health insurance their companies offer.

Paid Family Leave

The latest bill, [HB 2005](#), proposes phasing-in extension of parental and medical leave for employees. In 2022, leave cannot exceed 22 weeks and in 2023 and 2024, leave cannot exceed 26 weeks. It applies to any business with at least one employee, but those with fewer than 25 employees can apply for grants to assist with paying for temporary workers.

HB 2005: Phasing of parental/medical leave (proposed)

		Year of phase-in		
		2022	2023	2024
Types of leave	Parental	10 weeks	12 weeks	14 weeks
	Medical	8 weeks	10 weeks	12 weeks
	Illness, injury or childbirth	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
	Total (cannot exceed)	22 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks

HB 2005 is in the House Committee on Rules with [no scheduled meetings or hearings](#) coming up.

OBI has been highly involved in the Legislature's discussions on expanding paid family leave, working to ensure employers are represented in these discussions and that responsibility for pay for leave, and the extent of leave, does not hurt businesses.

\$5.67 Billion

OBI and partners are urging the Legislature to consider the totality of the business tax and fee proposals being considered in this legislative session. OBI was able to illustrate the size of the burden with the graphic below. Please feel free to share it with others.



HOW MANY MORE TAXES CAN OREGONIANS TAKE

New Consumption Tax \$2B

Family Leave Tax \$1.5B

Carbon \$1.1B

Employer Assessment Tax \$500M

Medicaid Tax \$334.5M

Small Business Tax \$130M

Kicker Cut \$108M

\$5.67 BILLION

Over Two Years

OBI partner Brighter Oregon is sending this message out to constituents, activating them to contact legislators. If you have participated in our Brighter Oregon advocacy effort, thank you. If you aren't seeing Brighter emails, please go to this [link](#) to sign up.



Social Marketing

Marketing through social media is outpacing other forms of digital marketing, according to an online report from the [National Retail Foundation](#). The NRF 2019 State of Retailing Online report found social marketing is the fastest growing digital marketing tactic, outpacing email marketing, search marketing and online video marketing.



Social marketing surpasses search in retailers' investment priorities for the first time.

Percent planning to spend more than in 2018 on each initiative



Source: 2019 SORO report by NRF & Forrester Research

NRF THE VOICE OF RETAIL

Read an interview summarizing the report [here](#).



Retail News

[Kohl's to process free Amazon returns for customers](#)

[Walgreens raises minimum tobacco sales age to 21 after FDA pressure](#)

[Major upgrades coming to Walmart stores in Oregon](#)

[Environmental advocates are abandoning an Oregon ban on plastic straws](#)

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.



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.



PETROLEUM



Upcoming Events

Labor and 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 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 the 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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