



Oregon Legislature Adjourns

The 2019 session of the Oregon Legislature adjourned at 5:25 p.m. Sunday, June 30, with mere hours to spare before the 11:59 p.m. deadline. Work had resumed the day before after Senate Republicans returned to the Capitol following a nine-day absence.

The 11-member Senate Republican caucus had walked out of the Capitol on June 20 in protest of the pending cap and trade legislation, citing concerns about the bill's impact on Oregon's rural economy. After Senate President Peter Courtney announced that the bill would not have sufficient votes to pass the Senate this session, essentially indicating that HB 2020 was dead, Republican leaders returned to the Capitol to complete the unfinished work of the session.

In the final two days of the session, the Oregon Senate completed work on 140 bills, while the House passed 38. Several bills OBI has tracked during the session were among the bills decided in the final days and hours of session. OBI members should be on the lookout for a complete end-of-session wrap up report soon.

Stores Prepare for the Statewide Plastic Bag Ban



Now that the Legislature has adjourned, businesses are determining what they will need to do to implement new laws. A key law for retailers is [HB 2509](#), the new statewide plastic bag ban. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, most plastic bags will be prohibited at checkout. Certain uses of plastic bags are exempt from the ban: bags provided to customers by a retail customer for the customer's convenience including bags for small bulk items, fruit and vegetables, meat and others; newspaper bags; door hanger bags; garment bags; laundry or

dry cleaning bag; and bags sold in a package containing multiple bags for uses such as food storage, garbage containment or pet waste collection.

Retailers may provide paper bags or plastic bags that are at least four mils thick but must charge customers 5 cents for each paper or plastic bag they provide. Restaurants are also banned from providing plastic checkout bags. Restaurants must charge 5 cents for reusable plastic bags but can offer paper bags without a fee.

Retailers can only be held liable for the state law or a local provision, not both. Local governments are permitted to adopt identical provisions to the state law and may require retailers and restaurants to charge a fee of more than 5 cents if all other provisions are identical.

No later than Sept. 15, 2025, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shall produce a report on the impacts of the law that assesses in retail establishments that primarily sell groceries. The report must describe collection of the fee; customers' use of recycled bags, reusable fabric checkout bags and reusable plastic checkout bags. By Sept. 15, 2024, retailers that primarily sell groceries shall provide required information to DEQ to facilitate production of the report.



News from the Oregon Capitol

Cigarette Tax Headed to the Ballot

A proposed \$2/pack increase in the cigarette tax will go to Oregon voters in November, after the Legislature passed [HB 2270](#) in the final hours of the session. The legislation increases the cigarette tax from \$1.33/pack to \$3.33/pack and subjects vaping products to a tax equal to 65% of their wholesale price. Funds raised by the legislation will be dedicated to Oregon's Medicaid program.



Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 2005](#), the negotiated paid family leave bill, was also approved in the final days of the 2019 legislative session. OBI played a lead role in negotiating this legislation, which balances employer and employee concerns and prevents the potential for a less balanced ballot measure in the future. The bill establishes a new program with premiums paid through a payroll tax; sets a 40% employer/60% employee cost share; caps the maximum amount of leave possible; exempts small employers from the tax; and allows private plans. Rulemaking on this legislation is expected to start soon and is slated to be done by September 2021. Employer and employee contributions to the paid family leave program will begin Jan. 1, 2022 and benefits would begin Jan. 1, 2023. OBI will remain engaged in the rulemaking and will make sure members are fully informed about how this new program will work.



OBI Retail Council Member Focus

The Gen Z Entrepreneurs of Target Incubator

Throughout an eight-week course happening this summer at Target's Minneapolis HQ, Gen Z entrepreneurs will be participating in [Target Incubator](#). The program is part of Target's [accelerator programs](#) aimed at helping startups develop their businesses and get hands-on experience in retail. The Target Incubator is designed for Gen Z entrepreneurs with aspirations to make the world a better place with "better for people" or "better for the planet" ideas. [Click here to learn more about the Target Incubator Class of 2019](#).

[Target and Next Gen will host the Target Incubator Conference July 30-Aug. 1](#). Next Gen is a business hub that energizes young entrepreneurs with resources, mentorship, knowledge and community to empower founders to build meaningful companies. At the event, 200 attendees will be immersed in a series of workshops and learning sessions about the world of retail, hear inspiring talks from experts, and test their skills with a unique business challenge. Selected participants will also have exciting opportunities to network, meet mentors, access Target resources to help build their ideas, and of course, see Target Incubator cohort's pitches live at the Demo Day event. Applications will be accepted through **July 19**, click here to [apply](#).

Do you have a story you would like to have highlighted in OBI's retail spotlight? Please contact communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com.



Retail News

[Retail Sales Pop Again in June in Good Sign for Consumer-Driven U.S. Economy](#)

[Cascade Station Sold to MetLife Investment Management for \\$140 Million](#)

[Bag Bans Make Sizable Gains in State Legislatures](#)

[Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Installed at Oregon Walmart Stores](#)

[2019 Top 100 Retailers](#)



Resources

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.



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Upcoming Events



New Date

Statesman Dinner – October 7

Mark your calendars for Oct. 7. Join us as we celebrate the Statesman of the Year on Oct 7 at the Portland Art Museum. Keep your eye out for an upcoming announcement on this year's awardee.

Interested in sponsoring or need more information? Contact [Morgan Beltz](#).

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