



## Tariffs impact retailers and customers

A recent story by the National Retail Federation highlights the impact of tariffs on retailers and customers. Until now, retailers have attempted to minimize the cost to customers from those tariffs. But soon customers are likely to start feeling the impact of looming tariffs that are expected to increase the cost of products that consumers buy every day. Click [here](#) to read more from the NRF.



## News from the Oregon Capitol

### Legislature entering final days – we think

The constitutionally required June 30 adjournment day for the 2019 legislative session is drawing closer, with just a few major bills still waiting for final action. But one of those bills is the controversial cap-and-trade proposal to reduce carbon emissions in Oregon. Disagreement over the version of the HB 2020 that passed the Oregon House last week has caused the Senate Republicans to walk away from the Chamber, denying a quorum – and the ability to vote on *any* bills. Gov. Kate Brown has said she will call lawmakers back to a special session July 1 if the issue is not resolved by June 30. Meantime, still awaiting final action are several budget bills, a bill that would make technical fixes to the tax bill passed this session, the proposed paid family leave bill, and a handful of others.

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### Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 2005](#), the Paid Family Leave bill, passed the House Thursday, June 20. It now heads to the Senate for a vote. The current bill reflects negotiations by OBI and partners to ensure employer concerns are addressed. The bill would cap the number of leave days an employee could take; establish a 40% employer/60% employee cost share; exclude small business (under 25 employees) from being subject to the tax, and allow for private plans. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the bill.

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## Plastic bag ban

[HB 2509](#), the proposed ban on single-use plastic bags at checkout stands, has passed both chambers and is expected to be signed by Gov. Brown soon.

On June 11 the bill passed the Senate. It bans most plastic bags with some exceptions and includes 5-cent charge for paper bags, which is meant to be a base fee. Local governments (including the 17 cities that have existing bans) will be permitted to charge more if they have already instituted a higher charge, like 10 cents.



The bill will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

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## Styrofoam ban fails

[HB 2883](#) was a proposed a ban on polystyrene in food containers. While the intention may have been aimed at traditional Styrofoam take-out containers, the original bill was much broader and would have banned any use of polystyrene in containers for prepared food. OBI joined a coalition against the bill.

The bill had a rocky path this session and ultimately died in the Senate. It failed the first time it was brought up for a vote and then narrowly passed 32-28, with six Democrats joining Republicans in opposing the bill. A major concern was the impact of the bill on a Tigard business that recycles Styrofoam. Rep. Margaret Doherty (D-Tigard) was a key voice in opposition to the bill in the House.

Despite amendments in the Senate to narrow the bill to containers made from polystyrene foam, the bill simply did not have sufficient support to pass in the Senate, failing 14-15. Three Democrats joined Republicans to oppose the bill.

We expect to see this, or a similar concept, again in future legislative sessions.



## OBI Retail Council Member Focus

### Walmart Open Call

OBI member Walmart held their Open Call event earlier this week. It is an exciting and unique opportunity for selected entrepreneurs to come to the Home Office in Bentonville, AR, meet face-to-face with Walmart buyers and potentially get their product in the hands of millions of our customers. Now in its sixth year, more than 500 entrepreneurs attended. They are manufacturing in 44 different states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Nine Oregon entrepreneurs attended this year.

Do you have a story you would like to have highlighted in OBI's retail spotlight? Please contact [communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com](mailto:communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com).



## Retail News

[Oregon legislature passes plastic bag ban, kills polystyrene food container ban](#)

[US retail sales rose in May, while April was revised higher](#)

[‘Catastrophic,’ ‘Cataclysmic’: Tariff threat has retailers sounding alarm](#)

[Portland retail tax applies more broadly than thought, igniting opposition at City Hall](#)

[Nike wins big \(again\) scoring Cannes Grand Prix for media](#)

[\\$1 a day buys Walmart associates a college degree](#)

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## 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](mailto:Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com).



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## 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.



## Upcoming Events

### Unemployment Insurance Conference

June 27 is your chance to get the scoop on unemployment insurance strategies to improve your bottom line. The National Unemployment Insurance Policy Conference is coming to Portland and offers a unique opportunity for businesses and companies to learn about unemployment tax, benefits and policy to 2020 and beyond.

OBI has a special single-day pass rate for members for June 27. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- What: National Unemployment Insurance Policy Conference
- When: June 26-28
- Where: Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel
- Event information: [www.uwcstrategy.org/conferences/](http://www.uwcstrategy.org/conferences/)

**Smart Oregon  
Businesses Choose  
OBI CompSAFE**

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The banner features a blue-tinted photograph of five diverse business professionals standing together. The text is overlaid in white and green.

**OBI HealthChoice**  
Big Business Options on  
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The banner features a purple-tinted photograph of a person's hands holding a stethoscope. The text is overlaid in white.

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