OWGL Session Report: Pre-Week 1

The Oregon Legislature officially convenes Monday, Feb. 3rd for a 35-day Session. This past week has been a whirlwind of final fundraisers (all fundraising shuts down for Session) and bill review of the 256 bills pre-session filed. Committees will begin meeting Monday afternoon and evening after ceremonial activities. As a reminder, the Oregon deadlines are fast and hard and will require Policy Chairs to post Work Sessions Friday, Feb. 7th.

Our team will provide weekly updates and bill trackers. Don’t hesitate to reach out during the week but please know that our days will be running from 7AM – 8PM (evening Committees Tuesday and Thursdays) so our email response time will be delayed.

Bill Deadlines:

- Feb. 7th – Work Sessions must be scheduled for 1st Chamber Bills
- Feb. 13th – Bills must move out of 1st Chamber Committee
- Feb. 20th – Work Sessions must be scheduled for 2nd Chamber Bills
- Feb. 25th – Bills must move out of 2nd Chamber Committee

*As a reminder, the above deadlines do not apply to Rules, Revenue or Ways & Means Committees.

Session Politics

No start of Session would be complete without the rumor mill running wild. Talk of Senate Republicans considering another walkout over the Cap & Trade bill continues to dominate the press. Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger told the WW this week that "The Democrats have came off the rail," he tells WW. "The Democrats have gone nuts. I'm thinking my caucus doesn't even show up and we get national attention for how crazy the Democrats are.” [In the news here](#). Labor unions released a poll showing Oregonians support penalties for Legislators who walkout and filed two ballot measures aimed at just that. [In the news here](#).

In addition, Senate President Peter Courtney continues to be absent from the Legislative efforts facing more serious health concerns that initially reported. The Oregonian reported that the Senate President has been recovering from a staph infection for the past month. [In the news](#). This absence could impact the Cap & Trade discussion (and vote count) and other controversial conversations set to take the stage next week.

Issue Updates

Cap and Trade Update

Cap and Trade continues to be at the center of conversations heading into the first week of session. [SB 1530](#), introduced in the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee during January legislative days as LC 19, will be the vehicle for a cap and trade proposal going forward. However, it’s anticipated that significant amendments will be introduced early in the week in an effort to gain support from moderate Democrats. Details of the amendments have not been released. The bill has been scheduled for three public hearings next week:

1. Tuesday 2/4 at 3:00 p.m.
2. Thursday 2/6 at 3:00 p.m. (Timber Unity rally planned)
3. Saturday 2/8 at 10:00 a.m.

Testimony will be limited to two minutes at each hearing and a sign-up sheet will be available one hour prior to the start of committee. Written testimony can be sent to: senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov.

In the News: Oregon Lawmakers Increasingly Legislate by Region will the Tactic Bring Urban and Rural Together or Deepen the Divide

Chlorpyrifos Ban
Proponents of HB 4109 successfully framed the bill as a public health issue instead of agricultural, which resulted in the bill being sent to the House Health Care Committee. The committee is comprised of seven Democrats (all sponsors of the bill) and four Republicans. Agendas for next week have been posted and the bill is not scheduled for a public hearing meaning it would need to be scheduled for a hearing the following week or it will die. We've engaged in efforts with the ag community to stop the bill from moving forward or at a minimum receive an amendment to make the bill more palatable. OWGL has signed on to the one-pager in opposition to the bill that will be distributed to members next week.

In the news: Oregon Lawmakers Take On Phasing Out A Controversial Pesticide, Again

Corporate Activity Tax Technical Fix
The House Revenue Committee is holding the first hearing on HB 4009, the CAT technical fix bill on Wednesday morning. The ag community has drafted a one-pager in support of two technical fixes for Oregon agriculture: an ag specific definition of ‘cost inputs’ and an apportionment certificate for comingled bulk commodities. We are continuing to work with our partners to coordinate testimony and meetings with Chair Nathanson. View the most recent version of the bill is here.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Chlorpyrifos Work Group
Despite the introduction of a Chlorpyrifos ban being introduced in the legislature, Oregon Department of Agriculture held the second meeting of the Chlorpyrifos Work Group. ODA staff provided additional information through presentations on Existing regulations related to Chlorpyrifos, Special Local Needs Labels for Chlorpyrifos, Current Worker Protection Standards, Certification and Training, and Recordkeeping Requirements and Existing Foundations: Chlorpyrifos Label Requirements – Example: Lorsban Advanced Insecticide.
Following the presentations, ODA reiterated their desire to look at mitigation measures instead of identifying critical uses. Staff presented a list of possible mitigation measures for the WG to consider. Written comments on the proposed list of mitigation measures are due by March 16. The next WG meeting is scheduled for March 30, ODA intends to bring forward a proposal for the WG to review at that time.

OHSA Transportation and Harvest Workers Discussion
Earlier this week, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administrator Michael Wood invited industry representatives, farm worker advocates, and state and federal agencies to discuss transportation and harvest workers. The meeting was triggered by a fatality accident involving a harvester traveling along the shoulder of Hwy 211 in 2017. Farm worker advocates asked that there be rule no longer allowing farm workers to be transported on farm equipment such as harvesters. A representative from Oregon Department of Transportation pointed to 735-048-0040, Number 8b which states that once a farm vehicle enters a highway no workers should be present, except the operator. The group agreed that this rule very clearly explains that passengers are NOT to be in agriculture vehicles once they enter a road and that the operator in the 2017 accident was out of compliance and should have been cited. Everyone
agreed there is no need for additional regulations, but that industry would participate in an education campaign with farmers to ensure they are aware of the rule. OHSA will draft a hazard alert for the group to review in March.

**AEZ Rulemaking**
We submitted a joint letter with the ag community to the EPA regarding the proposed changes to the Application Exclusion Zone. View the final letter [here](#).

**Hearings of Interest Next Week:**

**Monday**

SB 1514, SB 1515 and SB 1536 - Fire Bills in Senate Wildfire Reduction & Recovery

HB 4076 – Task Force on Age Discrimination

HB 4087 – BOLI Wage Security Fund & TA Bill

**Tuesday**

HB 4070 – On-site Septic Tank Bill

SB 1530 – Cap & Trade

HB 4091 – Sage Grouse Mitigation Program

HB 4079 – OUSF Bill

**Wednesday**

HB 4009 – CAT Tax Technical Fix Bill

**Thursday**

HB 4069, HB 4077, HB 4086 – Water Bills

SB 1530 – Cap & Trade

**Saturday**

SB 1530 – Cap & Trade