

## ***Oregon Friends Legislative Newsletter for April 16 2017***

Questions or comments to newsletter editor Mary Priem:  
mkpriem@yahoo.com

### ***Quaker Peace Testimony and Gun Safety:***

A major hearing on gun safety needs your witness for peace on Monday morning, April 17.

Pro-gun groups are planning to pack the hearing room by 8:00 a.m. this Monday, April 17, when the Senate Judiciary holds a hearing and work session on proposed gun safety bills.

#### ***What you can do:***

1. **Come to Salem** very early tomorrow morning and fill the hearing room with a peaceful presence, whether you testify or not. See details below.

2. Step up and **testify** at the hearing. Make your voice heard for peace.

3. **Send in your testimony** to be part of the hearing record:

The committee encourages those who are unable to testify in person and/or those who wish to submit written testimony for the committee meeting record to do so here:

[sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

The committee meeting record will remain open and

testimony will be accepted until 5:00 PM, Monday, April 17.

4. **Sign a group letter** at your Meeting this Sunday and have someone hand-carry it to the hearing on Monday morning.

**Details:** The hearing before the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee will begin at 8:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 50, which is on the lower level of the Capitol building, directly underneath the rotunda. Use the elevators on either side of the Visitor Information kiosk. Arrive as early as you can; testimony sign-up begins at 7:00, doors open at 7:30, and there will be a line forming well in advance of 7:00 a.m.

**A Note on Parking:**

Metered parking is available around the Capitol and costs \$1.50 per hour. Free parking can be found within about eight blocks from the Capitol at the [Liberty and Chemeketa parking structures](#). All-day City of Salem parking passes are sold in the Capitol, in room 49, and may be used at any Capitol Mall parking meter within the area defined on the back of the pass. For additional information call 503-986-1180.

**The three gun safety bills are:**

**SB764** as amended: Oregon Firearm Regulation Modernization Act -- sets forth detailed procedures for doing background checks before gun sales.

**SB 797**, closing the "Charleston loophole" on gun sales: "Prohibits transfer of firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of

State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive firearm." Currently, there is a loophole that if the police are unable to get their background check done in time, the applicant gets the gun whether they would have passed the background check or not. This loophole is obviously rather risky and needs to be closed.

**SB 868**, "Creates process for obtaining [an] **extreme risk protection order** prohibiting person from possessing firearms when court finds that person presents imminent risk, or risk in foreseeable future, of suicide or causing injury to other persons." The court order could be obtained by a peace officer or by a family or household member. Despite what critics claim about this bill, the person could request a court hearing before a judge, with complete due process, about having the order terminated. If not terminated, the order would stay in effect for one year.

### ***Other Quaker Concerns:***

#### ***Racial Justice:***

Recording Grand Jury Proceedings: **SB 496, SB 505**: last-chance work session on **Tuesday, April 18, at 8:00 a.m.** in Senate Judiciary. These bills would require a recording to be made of grand jury proceedings in Oregon. The history of Ferguson and other locales throughout the country has shown the importance of more transparency in grand jury proceedings, especially when police use of force against minorities is being reviewed by the grand jury. **These bills will die if not passed. Your phone calls can help.**

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are:

Chair: Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-04), 503-986-1704

Vice-Chair: Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-13), 503-986-1713

Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-23), 503-986-1723

Sen. Dennis Linthicum (R-28), 503-986-1728

Sen. James Manning, Jr. (D-07), 503-985-1707

***Climate:***

**SB 557**, the major climate bill for this session, was sent to the relatively safe haven of the Rules Committee, but sadly, it went without any "do pass" recommendation, because of opposition by one of the Democrats on the Senate environmental committee, Senator Arnie Roblan of district 5 (the middle section of the Oregon coast). The bill can be revived if there is enough support for it, so **please continue letters and phone calls to your own representative and senator, and talk with friends in other parts of the state.**

The Climate Test for fossil fuel infrastructure bill, **SB 1007**, had a public hearing on April 12, but no work session has been scheduled, and the bill is dead for this session. Recourse to city and county actions against new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, and working on this issue statewide during the interim, appear to be the only options for now.

**SB 1008**, endorsed by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, would regulate and encourage the **transition from dirty diesel** engines. It has a last-chance work session on Monday,

April 17, at 3:00, in the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. **The key swing vote on this committee seems to be Senator Arnie Roblan (Democrat, District 5 on the Oregon coast), and his phone number is 503-986-1705.**

Several climate bills will have hearings and/or last-chance work sessions in the **House Environment and Energy Committee** on Monday, April 17, at 3:00 p.m.:

**HB 3312:** "Directs Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules establishing environmental regulations at least as stringent as those provided under federal law on January 19, 2017."

**HB 2020:** "Establishes Oregon Energy and Climate Board as oversight and advisory body for Oregon Department of Energy and Climate."

**HB 2135:** "Repeals greenhouse gas emissions goals and requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule statewide greenhouse gas emissions goal for 2025, and limits for years 2035 and 2050."

**HB 3269:** "Changes name of Oregon Global Warming Commission to Oregon Climate Change Commission."

**HB 3386:** "Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule program for facilitating compliance with low carbon fuel standards."

Members to contact on the House Environment and Energy Committee are:

Chair: Repr. Ken Helm (D-34), 503-986-1434

Vice-Chair: Repr. Mark Johnson (R-52), 503-986-1452

Vice-Chair: Repr. Karin Power (D-41), 503-986-1441

Repr. Phil Barnhart (D-11), 503-986-1411

Repr. Cliff Bentz R-60), 503-986-1460

Repr. Paul Holvey (D-08), 503-986-1408

Repr. Pam Marsh (D-05), 503-986-1405

Repr. E. Werner Reschke (R-56), 503-986-1456

Repr. David Brock Smith (R-01), 503-986-1401

Mark your calendar for the **Portland Climate March** on April 29. Do Friends want to march together and bring the Peace Dove puppets? The doves were created for the 2014 Climate March as a reminder that climate is a peace issue. Contact your newsletter editor if you would like to march: [mkpriem@yahoo.com](mailto:mkpriem@yahoo.com)

### ***Health Care:***

Mark your calendar for the **Health Care for ALL rally** in Salem on Thursday, April 20. More information at the Health Care for ALL Oregon website: [www.hcao.org](http://www.hcao.org)

### ***Friends Give Testimony in Salem:***

Friend Ed Averill shared with us the testimony he gave in Salem on April 12 to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural

Resources:

These are the notes I had in my hand as I spoke. I said more to tie in what others had said and didn't try to read them exactly. Added some of that in square brackets.

## Climate Test Bill

Today it was announced that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has rejected National Fuel's plans for the Northern Access Pipeline, a 97-mile pipeline to carry natural gas from northwestern Pennsylvania to Elma. They did it on mostly local environmental grounds, but they did it.

Thank you to Senator Dembrow and those working with him for helping this Climate Test Bill to happen.

Oregon needs the strength this bill would give us to make good decisions on damaging projects. In the face of bubbling permafrost in Canada and Siberia, we need to get busy turning down the climate change heat.

**[Somewhere in here I made the point that Tracy Farwell had made the point that Oregon's carbon footprint is tiny -- 1% of US, 0.1% of Global, and therefore some people will say that our contribution doesn't count. But I say that everyone could take that attitude as a locality, and then no one would get done - and how would we feel about dying because they didn't try? In that context, we are part of a west coast community that is part of a larger community, etc., and we need to encourage our community to do its part by doing our part.]**

Everyone needs to do their part, and our part requires us to not allow the fossil fuel industry to think they can use Oregon as a way

to skirt responsibility.

Projects must be measured on life-cycle emissions. We must not become drug lords or even facilitators of drug lords who wish to increase people's dependence on fossil fuel throughout the world.

This climate test bill will prevent big abusive projects from happening. As we try it out, we may want to come back and tweak it, but that's normal.

Four fifths of current declared reserves of fossil fuel must never be burned -- must stay in the ground -- to meet the 2 degree limit. All that can be burned is in already active mines and wells -- no new ones need to be created.

At current burn rates, we would exhaust that amount in the 2030s for 2%, and the 2020s for 1%.

[This declaration of reserves represents a falsification of the value of fossil fuel companies.]

I adamantly support passage of the key bills **that will take Oregon from wishing it will do well for the environment to having control such that we set the example we need to to help our neighbors up and down the west coast, and then we all help the world meet needed goals.**

Thanks,

-- Ed Averill

