

Oregon Friends Legislative Newsletter for March 5, 2017

To Help You Follow Issues before the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session and Discern What You Are Led to Do:

A few upcoming events:

Upcoming Town Halls with Representative Diego Hernandez

East Portland Budget Town Hall

Date: Saturday, March 4th

Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Place: IRCO

10301 NE Glisan St, Portland OR 97220

Focus: Budgetary priorities

Engaging Democracy

Date: Wednesday, March 15th

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Place: McMenamins Kennedy School

5736 NE 33rd Ave, Portland OR 97211

Focus: A community forum hosted by Race Talks with city, county, state, and federal staffers, where you will learn how to engage in civic action

Constituent Coffee with Representative Hernandez

Date: Saturday, March 18th

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: Margaret Scott Elementary School

14700 NE Sacramento St, Portland, OR 97230

Focus: Join me for a cup of coffee or tea, and allow me to update you on how I am advocating for your concerns and priorities in Salem

Constituent Coffee with Senator Michael Dembrow

It's that time again -- our monthly constituent coffee is this Saturday, March 11th. We'll be starting at 9am at the Hollywood Senior Center (1820 NE 40th Ave.). I'll provide the coffee.

East Portland Budget Town Hall

Rep. Janelle Bynum is teaming up with fellow legislators Diego Hernandez, Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chris Gorsek, and Carla Piluso to hear directly from East Portland residents about the state budget.

The event will be held at IRCO (10301 NE Glisan St, Portland, Oregon 97220) from Noon to 2pm on Saturday, March 4th.

1. Equitable System of Taxation – related to Quaker Witness of Integrity

Oregon faces a budget shortage. If any Friends have attended town hall meetings or have other information on this topic that you wish to share, please send information to me and I will include in future newsletters. Thank you!

SB 163:

Relating to taxation; prescribing an effective date.

Increases percentage of federal earned income credit allowable as credit against Oregon personal income tax.

Current Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Subsequent Referrals: Joint Committee on Tax Credits

No hearings scheduled yet.

HB 2909 – “Requires candidate for President or Vice President of United States, in order to appear on general election ballot or in general election voters' pamphlet, to provide Secretary of State with copy of candidate's federal income tax returns for five years

preceding year of general election and with written consent for public disclosure of tax returns. Prohibits elector in Oregon who is part of electoral college from voting for candidate who fails to provide tax returns or written consent.”

This bill is sponsored by, and is in, the House Rules Committee; no hearing set yet. If Friends would like to contact members of the Rules Committee about their thoughts on this bill, especially if they are constituents, the members are:

Chair: House D Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-36) – 503-986-1900

Vice-Chair: House R Leader Mike McLane (R-55) – 503-986-1400

Vice-Chair: Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-16) – 503-986-1416

Members:

Rep. Greg Barreto (R-58) – 503-986-1458

Rep. Jodi Hack (R-19) – 503-986-1419

Rep. Paul Holvey (D-08) -- 503-986-1408

Rep. Bill Kennemer (R-39) – 503-986-1439

Rep. Rob Nosse (D-42) – 503-986-1442

Rep. Barbara Smith Warner (D-45) – 503-986-1445

Workplace Policies – related to Quaker Witness of Integrity

Wage Theft: Tools for victims of wage theft: **HB 2169** on attorney fee awards, **HB 2180** establishing a lien on employer property, **HB 2181** protecting against retaliation by employer.

HB 2169:

Relating to attorney fees for plaintiff employees

Limits certain attorney fee awards to employee who prevails on claim against employer in wage and hour and employment cases.

Current Location: In House Committee

Current Committee: House Committee on Business and Labor

Public hearing held on February 13.

No upcoming hearings scheduled.

Chair: Representative Paul Holvey (D-8) 503-986-1408

Vice-Chair: Representative Greg Barreto (R-58) 503-986-1458

Vice-Chair: Representative Janelle Bynum (D-51) 503-986-1451

Members:

Representative Margaret Doherty (D-35) 503-986-1435

Representative Paul Evans (D-20) 503-986-1420

Representative Julie Fahey (D-14) 503-986-1414

Representative Jodi Hack (R-19) 503-986-1419

Representative Dallas Heard (R-2) 503-986-1402

Representative Bill Kennemer (R-39) 503-986-1439

HB 2180:

Relating to establishing a lien on employer property based on an unpaid wage claim.

Establishes right of employee for civil action based on unpaid wages.

Current location: In House Committee

Current Committee: House Committee on Business and Labor

Public hearing held on February 13.

No upcoming hearings scheduled.

For contacts, see HB 2169.

HB 2181:

Relating to the protection of employee rights in the workplace.

Creates rebuttable presumption against employer if employer takes certain adverse action against employee within 90 days of employee's protected, wage-related activity

Current location: In House Committee

Current Committee: House Committee on Business and Labor

Public hearing held February 13

No upcoming hearings scheduled.

For contact information, see HB 2169.

2. Reduce Violence, Halt Prison Growth, Reduce Use of Solitary Confinement, Halt the Death Penalty, Improve Public Safety (addressing gun violence) – related to Quaker Witness of Peace

Improve Public Safety (addressing gun violence)

HB 2130: Child Access Prevention (CAP)

Creates crime of endangering a minor by allowing access to a firearm.

Chief Sponsors: Reps Smith Warner, Keny-Guyer, Piluso;
Senators Steiner Hayward, Dembrow

Note:

- HB 2130 has a felony penalty attached.
- Studies indicate that CAP bills with felony penalties are the most successful at reducing child access.
- Age of minor is under 18.

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

No hearings scheduled

Chair: Representative Jeff Barker (D-28) – 503-986-1428

Vice-Chair: Representative Andy Olson (R-15) --541-967-6576

Vice-Chair: House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-36)
-- 503-986-1436

Members:

Representative Chris Gorsek (D-49) -- 503-986-1449

Representative Mitch Greenlick (D-33) 503-986-1433

Representative Ann Lininger (D-38) 503-986-1438

Representative Bill Post (D-25) 503-986-1425

Representative Tawna Sanchez (D-43) 503-986-1443

Representative Sherrie Sprenger (R-17) 503-986-1417
Representative Duane Stark (R-4) 503-986-1404 and 541- 237-9851
Representative A. Richard Vial (R-26) 503-986-1426

HB 2237: Close Charleston Loophole; Change relationship status requirement from “intimate partner” to “family or household member;” No Guns for Stalkers

- 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.
- Modifies definition of relationship status pertaining to types of court orders and misdemeanor convictions that cause person to be prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Provides that conviction for stalking causes person to be prohibited from possessing firearm unless person obtains relief from prohibition.

Filed the request of Governor Kate Brown
Location: In House Committee
Committee: House Committee on Judiciary
No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2130

HB 2523: Safekeeping of Firearms

Authorizes gun dealer to accept for safekeeping firearm surrendered by person or family or household member of person who is at risk of causing physical injury to self or others with firearm

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Buehler, Senator Steiner Hayward
Committee: House Committee on Judiciary
No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2130

SB 232: Dispossession of guns for DVRO

Requires court to ask petitioner at hearing for family or household abuse restraining order whether respondent possesses any firearms and to record answer on order. Directs presiding judge of judicial district to adopt protocols relating to surrender of firearms by persons prohibited by court order from possessing firearms.

Chief Sponsors: Senator Monnes Anderson, Rep. Piluso

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary

No hearings scheduled

Chair: Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-4) 503-986-1704

Vice-Chair: Senator Kim Thatcher (R-13) 503-986-1713

Members:

Senator Michael Dembrow (D-23) 503-986-1723

Senator Dennis Linthicum (R-28) 503-986-1728

Senator James Manning Jr. (D-7) 503-986-1707

Criminal Justice System Reform and Prison Reform:

Two bills that the NAACP is following are **HB 2355** and **HB 2238**: the former is concerned with getting OR Criminal Justice Commission to develop a method for recording data concerning officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops; HB 2238 is concerned with proposed reductions in criminal classification of unlawful possession of controlled substances. This bill may be folded into **HB 2355**.

Another bill is **SB 496**, which requires grand jury proceedings to be recorded, bringing about greater transparency.

HB 2355:

Relating to public safety; declaring an emergency.

Directs Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to develop method for recording data concerning officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops.

Current location: House Committee on Judiciary

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Public hearing schedule 3/6/17.

See contact information for HB 2130

HB 2238:

Reduces crime classification of unlawful possession of controlled substance in Schedule I. Punishes by maximum of one year's imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both, except in specified circumstances.

Current location: House Committee on Judiciary

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2130

SB 496:

Relating to recording of grand jury proceedings; declaring an emergency.

Directs presiding judges of judicial districts within state to ensure proceedings before grand jury are recorded.

Current Location: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Public hearing scheduled 3/8/17.

See contact info for SB 232

HB 2251:

Relating to incarceration facilities for persons under 18 years of age.

Provides that person under 18 years of age may not be incarcerated in Department of Corrections institution.

House Committee on Judiciary

Public hearing held February 20, 2017.

No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2130

Solitary Confinement:

SB 82:

Relating to rules regulating conduct of persons in the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority.

Sets forth state policy specifying that sanctions and punishment for violation of rules regulations conduct of youth offenders and other person placed in physical custody of Oregon Youth Authority may not include placing youth offender or others in custody of youth authority alone in locked room.

Current location: House Committee on Judiciary

History: Referred to Judiciary on 1/17/17. Public Hearing and Work session held on 2/8/17. Work session held on 2/14/17.

Recommendation of “do pass” on 2/16/17. Second reading on 2/16/17. Third reading. Carried by Manning Jr. Passed. Ayes, 29; excused, 1--Dembrow.

House First reading on 2/27/17. Referred to Speaker’s desk.

Referred to Judiciary on 3/3/17.

See contact information for HB 2130.

Death Penalty:

HJR 2:

Proposing amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to the death penalty.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution prohibiting death penalty.

Current location: In House Committee, House Committee on Judiciary, No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2130

3. Eliminate Hunger and Homelessness, Increase Family and Community Well-Being – related to Quaker Witness of Community

Housing:

HB 2003: “Repeals prohibition on city or county ordinance or resolution controlling rent charged for rental of dwelling unit.”

Removing state preemption so local governments (like Portland or Eugene) can enact locally-tailored housing solutions.

In House Committee on Human Services and Housing (Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, chair); no hearings scheduled yet.

Chair: Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-46) 503-986-1446

Vice-Chair: Representative Tawna Sanchez (D-43) 503-986-1443
Vice-Chair: Representative Duane Stark (R-4) 503-986-1404

Members:

Representative Chris Gorsek (D-49) 503-986-1449
Representative Dallas Heard (R-2) 503-986-1402
Representative Mark Meek (D-40) 503-986-1440
Representative Mike Nearman (R-23) 503-986-1423
Representative Ron Noble (R-24) 503-986-1424
Representative Carla Piluso (D-50) 503-986-1450

HB 2004: Making no-cause evictions illegal in Oregon.
“Prohibits landlord from terminating month-to-month tenancy without cause except under certain circumstances with 90 days' written notice and payment of relocation expenses.”

In House Committee on Human Services and Housing (Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, chair); public hearing was held on March 2. A housing coalition rally was held on March 2.

See contact information for HB 2003.

HB 2210:

Relating to affordable rental housing assistance.

Directs Housing and Community Services Department to develop and implement Retaining Affordable Rental Housing Program to provide grants to owners of multifamily rental housing to rehabilitate and maintain housing at affordable rental rates

Current Committee: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

In House Committee

No hearings scheduled

See contact information for HB 2003.

HB 2570

Relating to nonprofit organizations that provide financial assistance for affordable housing.

Directs Housing and Community Services Department to establish Affordable Homeownership Grant Program to provide grants to eligible nonprofit organizations with affordable homeownership programs to provide opportunities for homeownership to persons in low income households.

House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Location: In House Committee

No hearings scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2003.

HB 2215

Relating to rights of persons experiencing homelessness.

Establishes Oregon Right to Rest Act.

House Committee on Judiciary

Current location: In House Committee

No hearings scheduled

See contact info for HB 2130.

Health Care:

HB 2726:

“Cover All Kids” – The 2% of Oregon children who are not currently covered by the Oregon Health Plan are essentially the undocumented children. Rep. Diego Hernandez is one of the chief sponsors of the **“cover all kids” bill, HB 2726**, current committee:

House Committee on Health Care, Subsequent Referral: Joint committee on Ways and Means, Public Hearing held 2/20/17. Work session scheduled for 3/8/17.

House Committee on Health Care:

Chair: Rep. Mitch Greenlick (D-33) – 503-986-1433

Vice-Chair: Rep. Cedric Hayden (R-07) – 503-986-1407

Vice-Chair: Rep. Rob Nosse (D-42) – 503-986-1442

Teresa Alonso Leon (D-22) – 503-986-1422

Knute Buehler (R-54) – 503-986-1454

Jodi Hack (R-19) – 503-986-1419

Bill Kennemer (R-39) – 503-986-1439

Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-46) – 503-986-1446

Sheri Malstrom (D-27) – 503-986-1427

“Requires Oregon Health Authority to convene work group to advise and assist in implementing targeted outreach and marketing for Health Care for All Oregon Children program. Permits all children residing in Oregon and meeting financial eligibility requirements to enroll in program. Requires authority, in collaboration with Department of Consumer and Business Services if necessary, to seek necessary federal approval or waiver of federal requirements to secure federal financial participation in costs of outreach and marketing and in expansion of eligibility for program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.”

HB 2232:

Relating to reproductive health care; declaring an emergency. Requires health benefit plan coverage of specified health care services, drugs, devices, products and procedures related to reproductive health.

Current location: House Committee on Health Care

Subsequent referral to Joint Committee on Ways and Means
No hearings scheduled.

See contact info for HB 2726.

HB 2862:

Relating to appropriations to the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program; declaring an emergency.

Allocates \$350,000 to Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program.

Current location: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Subsequent referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

No hearings scheduled.

Chair: Representative Jeff Reardon (D-48) 503-986-1448

Vice-Chairs: Representative Teresa Alonso Leon (D-22) 503-986-1422

Representative Gene Whisnant (R-53) 503-986-1453

Members: Representative Janelle Bynum (D-51) 503-986-1451

Representative Brian Clem (D-21) 503-986-1421

Representative Dallas Heard (R-2) 503-986-1402

Representative Mark Johnson (R-52) 503-986-1452

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

Representative Janeen Sollman (D-30) 503-986-1430

SB 341:

Relating to tax credit for position with a medical training program in a rural area; prescribing an effective date.

Creates income tax credit for taxpayer working as medical clerk or medical preceptor in rural area.

Current location: Senate Committee on Health Care

Subsequent Referrals: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Joint Committee on Tax Credits

No hearings scheduled.

Chair: Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-25) 503-986-1725
Vice-Chair: Senator Jeff Kruse (R-1) 503-986-1701
Members: Senator Lee Beyer (D-6) 503-986-1706
Senator Tim Knopp (R-27) 503-986-1727
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-17) 503-986-1717

SB 390:

Relating to discrimination in providing access to medical services; declaring an emergency.

Prohibits discrimination based on age, expected length of life, present or predicted disability, degree of medical dependency or quality of life in determination of medical services covered by state medical assistance program, in coverage under medical retainer practice and in issuance of health benefit plans.

Current location: Senate Committee on Health Care

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

No hearing scheduled.

See contact info for SB 341.

SB 558:

Relating to improving the health of Oregon children; declaring an emergency.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to convene work group to advise and assist in implementing targeted outreach and marketing for Health Care for All Oregon Children program.

Current location: Senate Committee on Health Care

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Public Hearing held 2/21/17.

Work session scheduled 3/7/17.

See contact info for SB 341.

HB 2305:

Relating to health care for children; declaring an emergency.
Authorizes Oregon Health Authority to provide medical assistance, within available funds, to low income children residing in Oregon if necessary to move towards goals of Legislative Assembly expressed in law and to improve health of Oregon communities.
Current location: House Committee on Health Care
No hearings scheduled.

See contact info for HB 2726

HB 2408:

Relating to access to health services in schools; declaring an emergency.
Appropriates moneys to plan, establish and operate new school-based health centers, to increase student access to school-based mental health providers and to fund pilot program that uses trauma-informed approaches.
Current location: House Committee on Health Care
Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
No hearings scheduled.

See contact info for HB 2726

Foster Care:

HB 2551:

Relating to children in protective custody; declaring an emergency.
Prohibits placement of child with intellectual disability, who is taken into protective custody, in hotel, motel, inn, hospital, Department of Human Services office of juvenile detention facility
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
In House Committee
Public Hearing held 2/16/17
No hearings currently scheduled.

See contact information for HB 2003.

HB 2451

Relating to foster children.

Establishes medical assistance eligibility for individuals under age 26 who have aged out of foster care in Oregon or another state.

Current location: House Committee on Health Care

Subsequent Referrals: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Public hearing held 2/27/17.

See contact info for HB 2726

Education: Obviously another large part of the budget discussion. Please help us stay informed on developments.

HB 3347: (not yet listed on Oregon Legislative website—details to follow in future newsletter when available)

Summary from Representative Diego Hernandez:

HB 3347 institutes a state statute that will ensure school-based incidents stemming from xenophobia, racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of harassment continue to be tracked regardless of Betsy DeVos's actions. This legislation will safeguard the annual reporting of civil rights data collection for K-12 schools in Oregon.

HB 2845:

Relating to statewide social studies standards; declaring an emergency.

Directs Department of Education to convene advisory group to develop statewide ethnic studies standards for adoption into

existing statewide social studies standards for public kindergarten through grade 12.

Current location: House Committee on Education

No hearings scheduled.

Chair: Representative Margaret Doherty (D-35) 503-986-1435

Vice-Chairs: Representative Diego Hernandez (D-47) 503-986-1447

Representative Carl Wilson (R-3) 503-986-1403

Members:

Representative Paul Evans (D-20) 503-986-1420

Representative Susan McLain (D-29) 503-986-1429

Representative Julie Parrish (R-37) 503-986-1437

Representative Janeen Sollman (D-30) 503-986-1430

Representative Sherrie Sprenger (R-17) 503-986-1417

Representative A. Richard Vial (R-26) 503-986-1426

HB 2864:

Relating to cultural competence at post-secondary institutions of education.

Requires each community college and public university to establish cultural competency oversight committee.

Current location: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Public hearing held 3/2/17.

No hearings scheduled.

See contact info for HB 2862.

Transportation:

HB 3346: (not yet listed on Oregon Legislative website—details to follow in future newsletter when available)

Summary from Representative Diego Hernandez:

I'll be co-sponsoring HB 3346 an initiative which will help high-school-aged youth get to and from school and meet all their other needs, such as extracurricular and employment, through better access to transit. School districts can apply for grant funding to subsidize youth transit passes and/or increase transportation services to meet student needs.

Beyond the Legislature: Local Actions: The Portland City Council requirement that a landlord doing a no-cause eviction must pay the tenant's moving expenses.

Hunger: As the Interfaith Advocacy Day briefing says, “Our state needs a strong and proactive set of food and economic assistance programs to respond to hunger and to support families moving toward employment and economic stability.” Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Oregon Hunger Response Fund need to figure in the budget discussions.

Immigration: Oregon law prohibits state resources from being used for federal immigration law enforcement. Our Governor has clearly said that Oregon is a “sanctuary state.” In this connection, Executive Order 9066 is also worth noting and celebrating.

Climate:

A note of appreciation from Mary Priem:

Appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Friends Debbie Averill, Ed Averill, and Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh, who gave testimony in Salem at the climate hearing this past Wednesday afternoon,

March 1. This was a joint meeting of the Oregon House and Senate committees that deal with environmental and energy issues, and was on climate legislation in general, and especially SB 557, the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill.

The day's very best testimony, however, came from a young man named Jeremy (perhaps about 12 years old), who spoke from his heart about climate change and said, "When I look into the future at my life, it looks like the Apocalypse." By the luck of the draw, or the work of Way opening, the next speaker after Jeremy was the opposing lobbyist from AOI (the Association of Oregon Industries), whose objections about "GDP and jobs" then came across as rather hollow after Jeremy.

SB 557: Clean Energy and Jobs Bill

Relating to entities that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions; declaring an emergency.

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.

Current location: in Senate committee

Committee: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Public hearing held 3/1/17.

Chair: Senator Michael Dembrow (D-23) 503-986-1723

Vice-Chair: Senator Alan Olsen (R-20) 503-986-1720

Members: Senator Herman Baertschiger Jr. (R-2) 503-986-1702

Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-4) 503-986-1704

Senator Arnie Roblan (D-5) 503-986-1705

SB 748: Carbon Pollution Permit Program

Relating to entities that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions; declaring an emergency.

Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt carbon pollution permit program by rule

Current location: In Senate Committee

Current Committee: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Public hearing held 3/1/17.

See contact information for SB 557

HB 2012

Relating to Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region; declaring an emergency

Defines Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region

Current Location: House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Subsequent Referral: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

No public hearings scheduled.

Chair: Representative Ann Lininger (D-38) 503-986-1438

Vice-Chair: Representative Pam Marsh (D-5) 503-986-1405

Vice-Chair: Representative David Brock Smith (R-1) 503-986-1401

Members:

Representative Brian Clem (D-21) 503-986-1421

Representative David Gomberg (D-10) 503-986-1410

Representative Ken Helm (D-34) 503-986-1434

Representative Andy Olson (R-15) 503-986-1415

Representative Bill Post (R-25) 503-986-1425

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

News Release:

Legislators kick off bicameral focus on carbon caps House and Senate committee chairs form climate change focused work group

SALEM – The Chairs of the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and House of Representatives Energy and Environment Committee are planning to form a work group that will begin discussing concepts related to carbon pricing in Oregon.

Currently, there are five bills between the two legislative chambers that are designed to address carbon caps and pricing in different ways. Members of both committees will join with other stakeholders to form the work group. The group will be gathering information and all bill proposals go through the Legislature's usual committee process.

“We’re going to have a broad-based discussion about the most effective components of carbon trading systems,” said Rep. Ken Helm (D-Beaverton), who chairs the House of Representatives Energy and Environment Committee. “We will include the forestry and the cattle and grazing sectors in creative ways we haven’t talked about before to help slow carbon emissions while creating rural economic opportunities statewide.”

The first meeting is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, in Hearing Room D at the Oregon State Capitol. The work group is open to all legislators who are interested in participating and the public is welcome to attend.

“It’s time for us to continue our pioneering ways by taking the lead in battling climate change,” said Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), who chairs the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. “This is an opportunity to begin showing

the people of this state and the rest of the nation that we take this issue seriously. This also is an opportunity to strengthen our state's position as a clean energy leader, creating jobs for rural Oregonians while we protect the environment. For too long, there has been a war waged between jobs and protecting the environment. I think we can have both.”

From Your Editors:

We'll do our best to have weekly updates during the 2017 legislative session. If you have additions, corrections, questions, or concerns, please contact Mary Priem mkpriem@yahoo.com and/or Zoe Wyse zoe.wyse257@marylhurst.edu