



***"Never allow the fear of  
striking out keep you  
from playing the game."***

**- Babe Ruth**

Neighbors –

The big news this month was the release of the Co-Chairs Balanced Budget. Unlike the budget produced by the Governor's Office that can be aspirational and consider future potential taxes, the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means must produce a balanced budget that is based on current tax law.

Per their release: "Oregon continues to face a structural deficit for the 2019-21 biennium that is projected to worsen in the 2021-23 and 2023-25 biennia. No matter the cause, these deficits threaten vital services to vulnerable Oregonians, education funding, the Oregon Health Plan, and ensuring our

workforce has the tools and supports they need to succeed. We cannot continue to provide the same level of service or meet future critical needs by staying on the same course we have been on for over a decade.”

“The formation of this budget was guided by the following three core principles:

- Align spending with the desire to meet critical needs and provide long-term budget stability.
- Prioritize K-12 education funding and the Oregon Health Plan. Evaluate all other expenditures based on their short-term and long-term outcomes.
- Maintain a prudent level of resources to guard against program and service reductions in the event of economic downturns in future biennia.“



I want to applaud the efforts of the Co-Chairs and appreciate the fiscally responsible manner in which they have approached this process. From their publication “The 2019-21 budget process is designed to develop a sustainable plan for state government, the public education system, and other governmental and non-profit partners within current law and resource estimates. The goal is a budget plan to spend resources wisely to meet the needs of all Oregonians.”

While we all recognize there is still much work to be done and more information to consider in order to produce a final budget, the framework presented by the co-chairs is an appropriate attempt to guide the state forward in a responsible and sustainable manner.



On a much lighter note, we helped coordinate the 2nd Annual House v. Senate Charity Basketball event to support the Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. Prior to the event, special

guest and hostess Marla Rae, kicked off the night by introducing the Boys & Girls Club nominees for State Youth of the Year. State Rep Mark Meek knocked it out of the park with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and then it was onto the basketball. State Reps Piluso, Brock Smith, Hernandez, Smith Warner, Alonzo Leon, Speaker Kotek and Treasurer Reed who joined me in representing the House, while Senators Heard, Thomsen, Manning and Fagan showcased the talent of the Senate. In the end, it was House Team 2 that brought home the title, but the real winner was the Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs with over \$10K raised. It was great to have Governor Brown and many other elected officials in the crowd cheering on the teams. Special thanks to event planners Michael Van Dyke and Kelsey Wilson for the efforts they put in to making this night such a success. Many thanks to all the staff and members of the lobby who competed and the many volunteers who helped behind the scenes.

Sincerely,



Daniel Bonham  
State Representative

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The grind of legislative session creates some truly challenging days. The passion and intensity of advocacy can foster intense fractured rivalries. For the second year now, I've helped lead a House vs. Senate Charity basketball game. The game is a reminder that even through competition, we can find ways to unite. This year, we raised over \$10,000 for the local Boys and Girls Club and nearly double the participation of elected officials. I want to thank everyone that gave .. played ... and came to cheer. It was a special night and I am truly grateful.



# Bringing House District 59 to Salem

We love taking the opportunity to talk about the unique and innovative people of House District 59. People passionate about their community and the businesses that make our corner of the state so special. From Team USA using Imperial Stock Ranch wool ... to offering House District 59 coffee to our visitors. We do what we can to make Salem feel more like home. If you know of local products or art that should be highlighted by our office please drop our office a line.





Welcome to the newest addition to our newsletter: “Speaking Up!”. As I have mentioned before, I cannot do my job representing our community without receiving your input. The poll will ask you a few simple questions about controversial bills matriculating through Salem and things we can do improve in our office to improve outreach and engagement. Your participation would be appreciated.

[Click Here and Share Your Opinion on Upcoming Legislation](#)



I am excited to report, March brought a lot of progress on the legislature front. Walking into session, our priorities were forest health, School



personal records reform, foster care reform, and improving access to Grants and Rural communities. I'm happy to report that all of these priorities are alive and progressing through the building.

Leading on forest health continues to be one of my top priorities. At the beginning of session, I filed [House Bill 2222](#) to improve Oregon's Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection in our fire affected communities. After negotiating an amendment with the Oregon Department of Forestry, it secured smooth sailing on the House side and is currently sitting in Senate committee awaiting action.

Building on the work of last session's HB 4118, we created two different bills to expand the Good Neighbor Authority. [House Bill 2952](#) and [House Bill 2953](#) place new safeguards on Good Neighbor authority projects requiring money raised through timber sale projects on Federal Land must remain in a segregated account for the exclusive use on new federal forest management projects. [House Bill 2953](#) will create some accountability and measurables to benchmark our progress to make sure we're maximizing the potential of this program.



[Senate Bill 155's](#) difficulty both on a political and public policy have made this one of the most complex issues that we can confront this session. Last session's effort to create a work group of stakeholders and legislative leaders has created a comprehensive approach that we can all be proud of. While the final amendments are likely to be drafted this week, we were able to move the bill from its Senate policy committee to Senate Rules, this will give it the attention and time it needs to be done correctly. I can't thank Senators Roblan, Wagner, and Gelser enough for the attention that they are giving this priority. Together we're moving the needle significantly on school safety.

With the help of Oregon's Foster Families First, we drafted 3 significant foster reform bills for the 2019 session. [HB 3015](#) has passed the House Education Committee and is likely to be on the House floor tomorrow. Oregon has created a perverse

incentive for our foster families to NOT adopt our children because they will lose access to College funds dedicated to Oregon's foster students. If a student wants to join their forever home, they should need to choose between family and college funds. [HB 3015](#) will make sure former foster students that are adopted will still remain eligible to opportunities meant to lift up vulnerable populations.



As discussed in more detail in previous newsletters, [HB 3110](#) is a tool for Oregon small cities and counties to increase their capacity to apply for federal and philanthropic grants. With a small financial commitment from the state, we're looking to maximize 3 to 4 times the returned on the investment. And more importantly, it's significantly expands the resources necessary for our small communities to secure the public safety, educational, and infrastructural Investments necessary for our future. [HB 3110](#) has passed out

of the house Economic Development Committee and it's now in The Joint Committee on Ways and Means and is now part of the larger discussion of Oregon's investment choices in the upcoming budget.

Many of my tier two priorities have progressed too. Water is the life blood of this state. And while it might be plentiful on the westside of the Mountain, it's a challenge for us on the eastside. Our work to improve the State's water reserves and create small hydro projects are up for a work session on Tuesday and we remain optimistic on their outcome.

Specifically, HB 2377 will be amended to include a concept we've developed with JR Cook to create a water test project in the Umatilla Basalt bank.



Teaming up with Representatives Power, Piluso, and Smith Warner we made a resolution recognizing the

positive impact of the Portland Thorns throughout our state. It's important that role models exist for all ages and genders, we're so blessed to have them in our community and I look forward to recognizing their contribution on the House floor on May 2nd.

Lastly, with the help of our Jefferson and Wasco County partners we identified an unfunded mandate that significantly effect hamstringing our rural countries. [HB 3047](#) removed the requirement that Counties pay the summons for Department of Human Services cases.



Pastor Marion Ryan Miller of the Madras Adventist Church graced the House with an invocation on Matthew 25.





Rep. David Brock Smith getting game face instructions from Brooklyn.



Jefferson County's jokester Marla Rae came out to MC our charity basketball game.







SEIU lobby day brought Amity York, John Palios, Carmen Cole, Grace Nyirangirimana to Salem for a discussion on PECBA and double coverage.





CAUSA members and constituents.

Student leaders from Redmond and North Wasco advocating on the important work of Joint Interim Committee On Student Success.





Some local 4 H students talking about the value of Oregon State University Extension Services.

Oregon Realtor Day in the Capitol brought some familiar faces.





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