



March 1, 2019

The Storm

"I learnt more about politics during one South Dakota dust storm than in seven years at university." - Hubert Humphrey

Neighbors –

This past week brought a hint of snow in Salem, while many of you have been battling just to keep your driveways clear. I was able to make it home this past weekend and enjoy the snow that I have missed, the very snow you may well be tired of. We all can agree that the much-needed increase of snow pack on the mountain is welcome.

As you all have been dealing with stormy weather back home, it feels like I've been dealing with a storm in Salem. The current trend from the majority party is to drive their bill

concepts through without consideration of amendment. We saw this with SB608 that caps rent increases and limits the capacity of no-cause evictions. While both of those concepts are reasonable- the practical application of such laws have been proven to have detrimental effects on the market. At the same time, the overall conversation on affordable housing is not without reasonable voices. Rep. Jack Zika of Redmond, was the chief sponsor of the Housing Pilot Program ([House Bill 2336](#)) that unanimously passed the house chamber this week. This bill will result in the construction of 485 new homes in Redmond. Half of those homes deed restricted to affordable housing – specifically housing designed to be affordable for those who earn 80% of AMI (Area Median Income).



Another concept to help relieve the pressure from the housing shortage is [HB2237](#)- a bill that I chief sponsored. I testified before the Revenue Committee this week on this bill that

does two things. First, it renews the Agricultural Workforce Housing Construction Tax Credit. Second, it establishes a new tax credit for the operations and maintenance of agricultural workforce housing. The Dalles has the largest cluster of farmworker housing in my district, and the current tax credit has expanded safe and affordable housing for farmworkers. For 30 years, this tax credit has been reaffirmed by the legislature as a critical investment to develop affordable housing for Oregon's agriculture workforce. The credit can be claimed for the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of agriculture workforce housing in Oregon.

In 2017 Sen. Courtney-D and Sen. Thomsen-R assisted in negotiating the Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit. The resulting concept creates a complimentary tax credit for operating and maintaining housing for agricultural workers. This tax credit works to help reduce the cost of operating and maintaining existing housing stock. Under this credit, farmworkers would receive financial relief from utilities, and that equals money back to the workers. Our farmworker constituents deserve clean and safe housing and my farmers want to provide safe, affordable, and legally compliant housing.

The biggest blow that was dealt in Salem this week came from the loss of Secretary of State Dennis Richardson. From his service as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam through his years of service to Oregon, Dennis brought an infectious optimism in everything he did. He was a true statesman. His kind demeanor will be missed. Rest in peace Dennis.

Sincerely,



Daniel Bonham
State Representative



Several of our bills have had hearings this week.

Agricultural workers provide the backbone of a farm's operational needs. Without these hardworking individuals who harvest and process agricultural products. We depend

heavily on these workers, and the least we could do is insure their basic living needs are met. Housing conditions for agricultural workers are often non-adequate causing workers to suffer. The owner of the farm is frequently at odds due to the lack of available funds. **HB 2337** takes a proactive approach toward improving the living conditions of agricultural workers while at the same time preventing cost on farmers. Our district has a large proportion of its workforce involved in the agricultural industry. Workers on farms often lack adequate living conditions. However, the problem isn't a lack of compassion with farm owners, often their profits are razor thin and they have little in the way of housing costs. This bill will act to provide an incentive rather than a cost on a Farm owner's taxes by offering tax credit for the operation of housing for agricultural workers. Thereby upkeep costs and improvements on housing are recognized. It's a win-win for both parties involved, farm owners are given an incentive to build housing and workers are then provided with adequate housing.



One of the many reason that make our corner of special, the proximity of our communities to nature. But with growing risk of catastrophic wildfire, more attention needs to paid to the Forestland- Urban interface and efforts to make our communities fire adapted. [HB 2222](#) requires Oregon Forestry Department (ODF) to report bi-annually to the Legislative Assembly regarding development and administration of Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. This ensures that we understand, the fire risks and readiness of our community is critical moving forward. [HB 2222](#) was requested by former State Rep. Gene Whisnant and is chief sponsored by myself, Rep. Jack Zika and Senator Betsy Johnson.



HB 2892 came into being after mothers of local marines, whose sons were denied the ability to wear dress blues rather than the traditional cap and gown at graduation. During their academic career in high school, these two young men signed up and completed basic training for the US Marines. Through dedication and hard work, they passed their classes and started their military service. They rightly felt it was fitting that they wear their uniforms during their graduating ceremony. So that they may honor their country while celebrating their graduation of high school, they requested and were denied the opportunity to wear their marine uniforms during their graduating ceremony. **HB 2892** is a simple fix that allows those who have already completed their basic training to celebrate their achievement and dedication to our country.



"Leaders of Tomorrow" is a series of academic programs we are implementing to empower the next generations with opportunities to learn and engage in civic participation.

The **HD 59 Educational College Internship** provides a college student from HD 59 the chance to gain professional work experience in an engaging office environment at the Oregon State Capitol. Our office is seeking individuals who want to learn more about local state politics and have a passion for public policy. The internship lasts one month, during the 2020 Oregon State Legislative session from February 5th- March 11th. By the

end of the internship, the intern will have improved skills in office work, gained firsthand knowledge of the Oregon Legislative process, and have developed and presented a research paper to the State Representative. Positions are compensated by covered traveling expenses. Applications are due on **December 31st, 2019** we encourage you to apply!

Follow [This Link](#) with more details and instructions to apply

The [HD 59 Educational High School Externship](#) provides one Highschool Student living in our district the chance to get involved with local politics. Our program is seeking individuals who wish to learn more about the Oregon State legislature and provides experience in office work while working from their own home/classroom. The externship lasts one month, during the 2020 Oregon State Legislative session from February 5th- March 11th. By the end of the program a high school extern will have: taken two visits to the capitol, worked part-time from home on research and administrative tasks, and finished a report on policies that they present and discuss with the State Representative. Positions are compensated by covered traveling expenses. Applications are due on **December 31st, 2019** we encourage you to apply!

Follow [This Link](#) with more details and instructions to apply

If you know of anyone that would be a good fit for our office, please don't hesitate to contact our office at (503) 986-1459. As always, if you can think of new ways to engage future leaders, please let me know.



March 6th

Tele Town Hall with Reps Bonham (HD 59), Findley (HD 60), & Sen. Bentz (SD 30)

6 am (Yes that time is correct)

We're excited to try out some new technology! The distance from Salem makes town hall during session prohibitive. But we're exploring the use of video conferencing to bring the Capitol to our communities. Please contact our office at (503) 986-1459 to learn about OSU Extension offices near you.

March 15th

Congressman Greg Walden Town hall

11:15am The Dalles Civic Auditorium
Community Center
323 E 4th Street
The Dalles, OR

Joint Carbon Hits the Road

I am so pleased to inform you that the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee will be leaving Salem and reaching out to communities around the state to allow for you to participate in the discussion. This is an important step in driving forward toward the best environmental policy in the state of Oregon. By allowing rural Oregon to have a voice in the process, we can raise awareness of local challenges and articulate our needs from any potential legislation. I hope you will take the time to engage with us in this process. We look forward to your involvement.

March 1st - TODAY

Joint Committee on Carbon - Cap and Trade Rural Hearings

The Dalles Civic Auditorium
Community Room 12:00pm-3:00pm

March 2nd - TOMORROW

Joint Committee on Carbon - Cap and Trade Rural Hearings

Central Oregon Community College
Cascade Hall, Room 246-248 9:00am-12:00pm





CAPITOL SCRAPBOOK



Credit Union Day in the Capitol

Students and teachers from Cascades Academy visited.



Team Bonham intern Brooklyn testified in Senate Health Care Committee during a snow day.

Picking a book to send back to a local school library during Oregon Library Association day.



Moments of levity with my friends and colleagues.



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