



**Let us not seek the
Republican answer or the
Democratic answer, but the
right answer. Let us not seek
to fix the blame for the past.
Let us accept our own
responsibility for the future.**

- John F. Kennedy

Neighbors –

The 2019 Legislative Session is just passed the halfway mark with all eyes on the May 15th revenue forecast. First chamber deadlines have now passed, and bills that made it through the committee process are making their way through the floor sessions. Of course, getting bills through one chamber does not guarantee their movement through the second chamber, nor does it promise the Governor will sign the bill into law. There is still plenty of work to do.



The major topics in the Capitol are: a \$2 billion Commercial Activity Tax, a \$1.6 billion Paid Family and Medical Leave program, \$1.2 billion Cap & Trade (Carbon Tax) system, a PERS “fix” package that includes theft of the kicker refund- raiding SAIF’s reserves- and asks current PERS employees to direct contributions to a Stability Fund, a \$500 million Employer Assessment Tax, and a \$350 million Medicaid tax.



As we discuss these major topics, the one thing that absolutely needs to change is the roll of the minority party in these discussions and negotiations. Currently, the tyranny of

the majority party is dominating this session. This past September, I was sent by the Oregon Legislature to attend the Council of State Governments Western Legislative Academy. In that training, one of the topics was civil discourse. The civil discourse training was the only aspect of the Academy that had any policy incorporated into the discussion. As part of that civil discourse conversation, we clearly demonstrated that regardless of the topic, having a group made up of representatives who have both diverse and unique perspectives leads to the best policy making. If you simply surround yourself with people who think exactly like you – the opportunity to produce solutions that help everyone is seriously diminished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Bonham', with a large loop at the end.

Daniel Bonham
State Representative

Communication is a constantly changing medium. Changes in technology provide opportunities and challenges to the way people communicate ... the way people listen ... and the content that they choose to listen too. In an effort to find new and creative ways to keep our neighbors informed and engaged in the legislative process, we've started a podcast series.

As someone that spends several hours a week in my car driving back and forth to Salem ... And as someone that has driven over 30,000 miles connecting with our neighbors ... I've learned firsthand the power of podcasts to provide original, substantive and timely content in a manner that is convenient to the audience.

Today, I am proud to announce our [inaugural podcast](#) - an interview with Rep. Mike McLane. I hope to provide a window into the personalities, process, and politics of Salem. As the first Republican and the only member on the House side to provide a podcast, we're excited to see where this journey takes us. If you have any suggestions,

please don't hesitate to send them my way.

[Click Here to Listen and Subscribe to podcast.](#)



The response to our legislative survey was fantastic! With overwhelming uniformity, you appreciated the opportunity to provide a voice in the legislative process. We look forward to continuing this section in coming newsletters. Click the link below and share your thoughts on a few new controversial bills in the 2019 Legislative Session.

HB 2015 - As the federal REAL ID laws take effect in Oregon in 2020, should the Department of Transportation to issue, renew, or replace a noncommercial driver license, noncommercial river permit, or identification that proves residency without proof of legal presence?

SB 1008 - Relating to juvenile offender sentencing.

HB 3194 - Authorizes self service at gas stations.

SB 320 - Abolishes annual one-hour change in time from standard time to daylight saving time and maintains Oregon on daylight saving time except in portion of Oregon in Mountain Time Zone.

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



I am excited to report, April brought a lot of progress on the legislature front. Bill concepts previously passed out of the policy committee with Ways & Means referrals sit in committee waiting for the May 15 Revenue Forecast ... allowing us to focus on policy bills that have passed out of committee and sent to the Senate.

In Senate Education Committee, two of our priorities have received their first hearing. [HB 2892](#) and [HB 2964](#) both passed out of the House with overwhelming majorities and bipartisan co-sponsorship. Republicans and Democrats coming together to help students and increase awareness of the support staff necessary to provide a quality education.



Our hearing was the same day as Oregon State Day in the Capitol. Bennie the Beaver provided a moment of levity in Senate Education Committee with grilling questions.



[HB 3274](#), an effort to increase renewable energy and water availability had a hearing today in House Rules. Providing win-win solutions for our rural communities ... clean environment, a more diversified electrical grid, and additional water resources for our drought prone communities.

We have 6 public hearings and work sessions scheduled in the coming weeks on several of our remaining bills. Stay tuned for updates!

CAPITOL SCRAPBOOK

My daughter, Jen, made it home from college just in time for the 40th Annual Cherry Festival Celebration. I'm truly grateful for the volunteers and coordinators that made this special day happen.





Dawn Emerson, from Terrebonne, Oregon had her art titled “Just Passing Through” displayed in Governor Kate Brown’s office. The artist uses pastel colors to create dynamic realism.

“The exhibition takes its title from the realization that we, like all living things, are on this earth so briefly – we are just passing through”.





I had a pleasure in meeting with. Ken Wilhelm and & Racheal Baker from the United Way of Deschutes County for the broader United Way of Deschutes Lobby Day.





There were nearly 100 OSU students and alumni visiting the Oregon Capitol advocating for student success and increased funding. I stand with student success and efforts to make education an affordable reality.

CASA's trained volunteers are on front line in Oregon's fight against child abuse. It was so helpful to hear the stories from local CASA advocates.





Jim Bob Collins is a rancher from Wheeler that came to advocate on Agriculture Heritage. Thanks for making the long trip ... truly appreciated!

Time to podcast!



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