

The Oregon Legislature's Environmental Caucus

2024 Policy Priorities

The Oregon Legislature's Environmental Caucus is composed of legislators who understand that climate change is impacting Oregon's natural resources, wildlife, and people. Members are committed to moving quickly, thoughtfully, and boldly to address these issues through policies that promote a healthy and sustainable environment for people and the natural world.

This session, the Environmental Caucus is focusing on a wide range of priorities, which cover environmental health concerns and environmental remediation, creating pathways for cleaner transportation options and energy, protecting Oregon's air, land, and water, and reducing the amount of usable items getting sent to the landfill.

The Caucus believes that government has a critical role to play in building our communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change, while also preventing further environmental decline through consideration of our working lands, energy and transportation systems, and land use. Members also believe that these actions can be taken in a way that brings economic advantages to all parts of the state and benefits to all Oregonians.

Updating Oregon's Emissions Reduction Goals - [SB 1559](#)

In order to help meet international climate goals, Oregon must do its part and tackle its own emissions by creating more aggressive goals for statewide emissions reductions.

Guaranteeing Oregonians' Right to Repair - [SB 1596](#)

Every year, tons of fixable items get tossed into Oregon landfills. Right to Repair lengthens the life of everyday products by allowing for at-home or third party repair.

Establishing Offshore Wind Labor Standards - [HB 4080](#)

Preparations for a cleaner energy grid should consider the needs of all Oregonians. HB 4080 sets up labor standards for offshore wind and creates a roadmap for engagement.

Facilitating Energy Storage Siting - [HB 4015](#)

As battery storage technology develops, Oregon should prepare for its availability. This bill clarifies and streamlines the process for siting battery energy storage systems.

Investing in Oregon's Marine Reserves - [HB 4132](#)

Oregon's marine ecosystem is an abundant ecological resource. HB 4132 funds ongoing monitoring and research in the Marine Reserves and supports community engagement.

Studying a WES Commuter Rail Extension - [SB 1572](#)

Alternative transportation is pivotal for an equitable, low carbon future. This bill studies extending the WES to Salem with stops in Donald, Woodburn, and Keizer.

Passing the COAL Act - [HB 4083](#)

Oregon has shown a commitment to moving away from coal for electricity. Now we must divest public funds from coal and disallow future investments in the industry.

Appropriating Monsanto Settlement Funds - [SB 1561](#)

This bill establishes the Environmental Restoration Fund for the next 50 years of environmental remediation work in PCB-impacted communities.

2024 Environmental Caucus Bills of Support

Studying PFAs in Biosolids ([HB 4049](#))

Supporting Wildlife Protection and Programs ([HB 4148](#))

Phasing out Gillnetting on the Columbia River ([SB 1509](#))

Exploring a Regional Energy Market ([SB 1581](#))

Establishing a Fund for Wildfire Smoke Preparedness and Response and Exploring a Program for Proactive Home Hardening ([HB 4016](#))

Incentivizing Clean Tech Manufacturing and Procurement in Oregon ([HB 4112](#))

Studying Potential Environmental Health Risks from Contaminants Released in the Event of a Major Earthquake ([HB 4044](#))

Creating a Grant Program to Help Property Owners with Wildfire Mitigation and Resilience ([SB 1511](#))

Setting up a Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Fund to Encourage Beaver Coexistence ([HB 4014](#))

Securing Additional Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program ([HB 4060](#))

The Need for Quorum Reform

Oregon is one of only several states that still requires two-thirds of legislators to be present in order to vote on bills. This means either party can use a walkout as a means to halt all legislative business. Oregon voters have indicated that they are not in favor of walkouts. In order to better conduct business and get legislation passed efficiently, legislative quorum must be reformed to require only a simple majority of legislators present.

2024 Environmental Caucus Membership

Sen. Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair, SD 23
Rep. Courtney Neron, Co-Vice Chair, HD 26
Rep. Tom Andersen, HD 19
Rep. Farrah Chaichi, HD 35
Sen. Jeff Golden, SD 3
Rep. Zach Hudson, HD 49
Rep. Travis Nelson, HD 44
Sen. Janeen Sollman, SD 15

Rep. Mark Gamba, Co-Chair, HD 41
Rep. Khanh Pham, Co-Vice Chair, HD 46
Rep. Ben Bowman, HD 25
Rep. Maxine Dexter, HD 33
Rep. Ken Helm, HD 27
Rep. Pam Marsh, HD 5
Sen. Deb Patterson, SD 10
Sen. Kathleen Taylor, SD 21



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[Link to Environmental Caucus webpage and newsletter sign-up](#)