



From the
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Oregon Legislature's Environmental Caucus Announces 2025 Priorities

The 2025 session priorities will address issues across a number of areas, including energy affordability and reliability, wildlife and habitat protection, and transportation.

Salem, Ore. – Today, the Environmental Caucus of the Oregon Legislature announced their top priorities for this year's legislative session. In 2025, the Caucus is looking to bold policies on climate and environmental issues that support a healthy environment for Oregonians and the natural world. A full list of the Caucus' priorities can be found [here](#).

The 2025 priorities support a robust package of environmental and climate issues, including bills that promote environmental health and justice, support Oregon's wildlife and natural habitats, protect prime farmland, and fund wildfire prevention and mitigation.

"We'll address a range of issues this session, from wildfire and utilities to protections for Oregon's beloved plant and animal species," said Rep. Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County). "One bill I have introduced will secure support for landowners living with beavers, making it easier to implement solutions for sharing their properties with nature's engineers who provide benefits for water security and wildlife across Oregon. I'm pleased my colleagues in the Environmental Caucus also support this effort."

Among this session's many priorities, Caucus members are looking forward to the development of the 2025 transportation package. The Caucus will work with colleagues across the building to support a transportation package that includes increased funding for public transit, Safe Routes to School, and an emphasis on sustaining and expanding infrastructure for multimodal transportation, along with creating a safer transportation network for people and wildlife, all through the lens of Oregon's climate action goals.

“Transportation and tailpipe emissions are Oregon’s #1 source of fossil fuel pollution, and our communities are already facing the dire impacts of global climate change, as well as the health effects of breathing polluted air,” stated Sen. Khanh Pham (D-NE and SE Portland, Maywood Park), Co-Vice Chair of the Environmental Caucus and member of the Joint Committee on Transportation. “We must act, and the 2025 session provides a critical opportunity to invest in a modern, green, and reliable transportation system for all Oregonians. Prioritizing investments in walkable communities, passenger rail and more frequent transit service are critical to reducing pollution in Oregon, and offer Oregonians more opportunities to work, study, and connect. I’m eager to get to work.”

Energy affordability and reliability are also top priorities for the Caucus in 2025. Many Oregonians have seen their utility rates increase over 40% in the last several years, well outpacing inflation and household income growth. Adding additional pressure to consumers and utilities is a predicted 30% increase in electricity demand over the next decade, requiring investments in the utility grid and its infrastructure.

“As evidenced by the unprecedented fire funding we allocated during the special session and the catastrophic fires in LA, addressing climate chaos head on must be a top state priority,” said Rep. Mark Gamba (D-Milwaukie and Sellwood), House Co-Chair of the Environmental Caucus. “We know that a key aspect to that is the replacement of fossil fuels with clean electricity in many sectors. Given that our transmission system is at, or near, capacity in most of the state and that we are expecting a 30% load growth over the next decade, it is incumbent on us to prioritize upgrading the current system and expanding it where necessary with alacrity. Part and parcel to this effort must be a mindfulness that ratepayers have recently experienced dramatic rate increases and can’t withstand further spikes.”

Rep. Courtney Neron (D-Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain), Co-Vice Chair of the Environmental Caucus, and member of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, is prioritizing environmental health issues this session. “I am committed to reducing harmful pollution, including ‘forever chemicals’, in order to safeguard the health of Oregonians and protect our natural resources,” said Neron. “Our 2025 PFAS policy work aligns with the progress made by other states that have already phased out these dangerous chemicals from consumer products and studied their environmental impact. I am also advocating for climate-friendly school facilities and supporting the transition to electric school buses. This session we have key opportunities to tackle environmental health with these and other important bills. I look forward to passing policies that ensure a healthier future for our communities.”

Sen. Jeff Golden (D- Ashland, Medford, and Grants Pass), Senate Co-Chair of the Environmental Caucus, said, “With so many urgent challenges right on top of us, it’s easy for legislators to lose focus on our stewardship responsibilities to the next generation—our children, and their children and grandchildren. Our priorities put that duty back into focus, and point us towards a future where Oregonians can thrive and enjoy the natural gifts this amazing state has to offer.”

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About the Caucus

The Environmental Caucus is made up of 21 legislators from both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Members are committed to legislative action that mitigates and prevents the impacts of climate change while also benefiting Oregon's economy and natural resources. For information and to sign up for the Environmental Caucus newsletter, [visit this page](#).