



Environmental Caucus Session Update

April 28, 2025

Did you miss a newsletter? You can check out all our previous newsletters on our [Environmental Caucus page](#).

Environmental Caucus Transportation Package Proposal

This year, the Oregon Legislature will be considering a transportation package that will provide ongoing funding for the Oregon Department of Transportation. [Emissions from transportation make up over one-third of Oregon's total emissions](#). This session provides an opportunity for Legislature to increase access to multi-modal transportation and expand options for all Oregonians to get around without a car. **The Environmental Caucus is championing a package that prioritizes transit, safety, and climate accountability.**

1. Transit services are facing potential services cuts without increased funding. [Nearly one third of Oregonians don't drive](#) and a majority of Oregonians said they would take transit if it was added or improved in the area where they live. Increased transit improves our transportation system for everyone. It allows for more independence for older Oregonians, reduces road congestion for all users, and improves public health outcomes. **The Environmental Caucus is requesting an increase in funding for public transit that will maintain current services levels and increase access to transit statewide.**

2. Funding for safety programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, the jurisdictional transfer program, and Community Paths regularly face demand up to 2-5 times more than the funds that are available. These programs improve safety on Oregon's roads for all types of users, but especially for pedestrians, bikes, micromobility, and public transit users. **The Environmental Caucus is requesting at least \$400 million dedicated to these existing safety programs.**

3. Climate accountability for ODOT projects must be a consideration for any new projects ODOT undertakes. Similar to what states like Colorado and Minnesota have done, **the Environmental Caucus is supporting a policy that requires ODOT to model expected changes to greenhouse gas emissions and vehicles miles traveled for each new project.** Any project that increases either of those must mitigate them with alternative transportation or other

buildouts. This policy benefits Oregonians by curbing spending on needless expansions and providing the public with information on project impacts.

Priority Bills We're Watching This Week

[HB 3546](#) directs the Public Utility Commission to create a new rate class for large power users. Large power users, like data centers, are currently classified under the industrial customer class, which pays the lowest rate for electricity, followed by commercial customers and then residential, [who pay the highest electricity rates](#). The bill has a public hearing in Senate Energy and Environment on Wednesday at 3pm.

Other Bills We're Watching this Week

[HB 3372A](#) allows for exempt well water users to use up to 3,000 gallons per day for commercial or noncommercial gardens, provided they are less than half an acre. The bill has a public hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire on Tuesday at 1pm.

[SB 85A](#) directs state agencies, in collaboration with the insurance industry, to develop programs to help prevent and mitigate wildfire damage at the community level and the individual home level. The bill has a public hearing in House Climate, Energy, and Environment on Tuesday at 8am.

[SB 777](#) makes changes to compensation for wolf depredation. It changes the compensation policy to allow for up to a five times multiplier for wolf depredation, with different types of livestock eligible for different levels of compensation. The bill has a public hearing in House Ag on Wednesday at 8am.

[SB 726](#) requires landfill operators to use advanced monitoring of methane and report their results to DEQ. As organic materials decompose and break down in landfills, they offput gas. [EPA estimates](#) that landfill gas is made up primarily of methane and carbon dioxide and that landfills make up about 14% of the methane emissions in the United States. Currently, many landfills do monitoring overland, with an individual walking around with a hand-held methane sensor. Advanced monitoring means by drone, aircraft, satellite, or another method. The bill has a public hearing in House Climate, Energy, and Environment on Thursday at 8am.

[HB 3940](#) would place an additional nonrefundable 5 cent surcharge on bottle and can deposits that would fund wildfire prevention and suppression. The bill has a public hearing scheduled in House Revenue on May 1 at 3pm.

Advanced Clean Trucks Testimony

The Department of Environmental Quality is holding [two more public hearings](#) this week and next on the state's adoption of Advanced Clean Trucks rules. Written comment will be accepted through Wednesday, May 7. For some background on the proposed policy, check out [this OPB article](#) from earlier this month.

What We're Reading This Week

[Forest Service cuts leave states scrambling to prepare for summer wildfire season](#) - POLITICO

[Trump administration, NOAA minimized climate findings of record CO2 growth](#) - CNN

[At Bonneville, DOGE cuts are having a 'compounding effect' on staffing the grid](#) - Latitude Media

[Bill blocking utilities from passing wildfire costs to consumers passes the Oregon Senate](#) - KPIC

[Dead, sick pelicans turning up along Oregon coast](#) - OregonLive.com

The [Oregon Legislature's Environmental Caucus](#) is composed of members who believe that our state requires bold environmental action and are dedicated to furthering policy that benefits the natural resources, wildlife, economy, and communities of Oregon.

Current Members

Sen. Jeff Golden
Sen. Khanh Pham
Sen. Anthony Broadman
Rep. David Gombert
Rep. Zach Hudson
Rep. Travis Nelson

Rep. Mark Gamba
Rep. Tom Andersen
Rep. Farrah Chaichi
Sen. Chris Gorsek
Rep. John Lively
Sen. Deb Patterson
Rep. Jules Walters

Rep. Courtney Neron
Rep. Ben Bowman
Rep. Willy Chotzen
Rep. Ken Helm
Rep. Pam Marsh
Sen. Kathleen Taylor