



Environmental Caucus Session Update

May 5, 2025

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

Another Legislative deadline is coming up this week. By the end of day this Friday, bills must have received a scheduled work session in their second chamber committee in order to move forward. For example, a House bill that has passed the House floor and now sits in a Senate committee needs to have a work session scheduled in that committee by the end of this week. The exception is for bills in Rules, Revenue, Conduct, or a Joint committee.

At this point in session, the number of bills moving through committees is generally getting smaller, with the exception being in Joint Ways and Means, where bills with a fiscal request are mostly still waiting to get funded. Everyone in the Capitol is looking towards next Wednesday's revenue forecast, which will help determine budgeting decisions.

The deadline for most committees to vote on bills is in two and a half weeks, on May 23. After that date, policy committees might continue to meet for informational sessions, but not to consider bills.

Priority Bills We're Watching This Week

[SB 685](#) would require natural gas companies to notify customers if they plan to blend natural gas and hydrogen at a rate higher than 2.5% hydrogen. The company also must maintain public-facing information on their website about hydrogen blending. The bill has passed the Senate and has a public hearing in House Climate, Energy, and Environment on Tuesday morning.

[HB 3546](#), the POWER Act, which allows the PUC to create a new rate class for certain heavy energy users, has a second public hearing this afternoon in Senate Energy and Environment.

[HB 3681](#) makes changes to the Oregon Department of Energy's processes in order to streamline energy and transmission development. Some of the changes are:

- Allow minor boundary changes to a project without requesting an amendment from EFSC (the Energy Facility Siting Council)
- Allow EFSC to grant two extensions for construction deadlines
- Shorten the timeline of contested cases at EFSC
- Narrow the scope of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) review; allow for that review and land use approval to happen at the same time; and remove duplication between EFSC and the CPCN process

Other Bills We're Watching this Week

[**HB 3932**](#) would outlaw beaver trapping on public lands within 200 feet of impaired waterways. [As reported by the Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), a 2022 report found that Oregon has the most miles of impaired waterways of any state in the country. Beavers are known to have many environmental benefits through their impact on waterways, including improved water quality, increased biodiversity, and wildfire mitigation. The bill has a public hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire on Tuesday at 1pm.

[**HB 2977**](#) increases the state's Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) by 1%, with the additional revenue directly funding ODFW's work on conservation and recovery of threatened species and habitats. The TLT is paid by guests staying in hotels, B&Bs, resorts, or short-term rentals, to name a few. [Travel Oregon's most recent visitor profile survey](#) cited that some of the top reasons people visit Oregon is for the scenic beauty and environmental quality. The bill has a public hearing in House Revenue on Thursday, May 8 at 3pm.

What We're Reading This Week

[State to offer rebates on electric vehicle purchases again](#) - Oregon Capital Chronicle

[Invasive emerald ash borer could wipe out Oregon's ash trees. Here's how you can help](#) - OPB

[House votes to undo California clean truck regulations despite legality debate](#) - The Hill

[Climate advocates push for passage of Energy Affordability and Resilience legislative package](#) - OPB

[Electricity demand in Northwest could double in next 20 years, forecast finds](#) - Oregon Capital Chronicle

[Forested swamps on the Northwest coast are some of the biggest carbon storehouses around, new research finds](#) - OPB

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.

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