



2025 Session Update - March 10

March 10, 2025

Environmental Caucus Priority Bills We're Watching This Week

[SB 688](#) (with the [-2 amendment](#)) appropriates \$500,000 to the Public Utility Commission to create a framework for possibly **implementing a performance-based regulation model for Oregon's investor-owned electric utilities**: PGE, PacifiCorp, and Idaho Power. [Performance-based regulation \(PBR\)](#) is a relatively new tool that requires electric utilities to meet certain goals in order to increase rates. The PBR model shifts the considerations for approved rate increases from cost recovery to specific metrics that benefit the public. Under SB 688, some metrics the PUC could consider to approve rate increases are a utility's reliability, resilience, and efficiency performance, its work towards greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and its development of distributed energy resources, to name a few. Many other states have adopted or considered this regulation and have used it as an incentive to decarbonize their electrical grid. The bill has a public hearing in [Senate Energy and Environment on Wednesday at 3pm](#).

[HB 3477](#) updates **Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions goals** to be consistent with the [goals set forth by the Oregon Climate Action Commission](#) and with the current science on climate change. The bill sets goals for every decade until 2050, by which Oregon should be at net zero emissions. Oregon was at the forefront of setting state emissions reductions targets when HB 3543 was passed in 2007. The bill has a public hearing in [House Climate, Energy, and Environment Tuesday morning at 8am](#).

[HB 3512](#) would **phase out the use of PFAS in certain consumer products**, like cookware, clothing, and cleaning products. PFAS are a class of chemicals used for their ability to resist water, heat, and grease, but are linked to [detrimental impacts on human health](#) and the environment. PFAS bioaccumulate and enter our soil, water, and air through many paths and are very difficult to clean up once they are present. Across the country, other states have already begun to require the phase out of PFAS in common consumer products. Oregon will be joining other states to reduce the use of this chemical and prevent its spread throughout the environment. The bill has a public hearing in [House Climate, Energy, and Environment](#) on Thursday at 8am.

[HB 3681](#) makes changes to the Energy Facility Siting Council's site certification process for energy projects in order to **streamline the construction of new energy infrastructure**. The Pacific Northwest is facing [a steep increase in demand for electricity](#) over the next decade and facilitating the deployment of clean energy and the required transmission is a top priority for the Environmental Caucus. The bill has a public hearing in [House Climate, Energy, and Environment Tuesday morning at 8am](#).

To testify on these or any bills, click on the bill link above or locate the bill in [OLIS](#) and sign up to provide oral testimony during the hearing. Written testimony is accepted once the hearing date is posted and up to 48 hours after the beginning of the hearing.

Other Conversations We're Watching This Week

SB 777 - On wolf depredation compensation. The bill has a public hearing and possible work session on [Tuesday in Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire](#). Be sure to check out the [-5 amendment in OLIS](#).

HB 2981 - Funding for addressing aquatic invasive species through several programs. The substance of the bill is in the -2 amendment, found [here](#). The bill has a public hearing in [House Climate, Energy, and Environment on Thursday morning](#).

HB 3107 - Makes certain changes to DEQ's permitting process. The bill has a public hearing in [House Climate, Energy, and Environment on Thursday morning](#).

What We're Reading This Week

Wildlife and Natural Resources

[Butterfly numbers have fallen by nearly a quarter since 2000](#) - OPB

[Competing proposals aim to keep neonics away from consumers](#) - Capital Press

[Southern Oregon nonprofits grapple with loss of millions for wildfire mitigation](#) - Bend Bulletin

Trump's timber directives could sway Oregon forest policy, but market effects remain unclear - OPB

Utilities and the Grid

['Get the Junk out of our Rates' bill could limit how Oregon utilities pay for lobbying, ads](#) - OPB

In light of the conversations around large power users and increased electricity demand in the region, this article (**Utilities may subsidize data center growth by shifting costs to other ratepayers: Harvard Law paper**), published this morning in Utility Dive, was especially timely. [The Power Act \(HB 3546\)](#) aims to address this issue.

Bonneville opts to join SPP's Markets+ day-ahead market over CAISO alternative - Utility Dive

Transportation

ODOT intends to buy portion of Hayden Island to offset impacts of I-5 bridge replacement - KOIN 6

[Southwest Washington cities spar over light rail funding for I-5 bridge replacement](#) - 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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