



## Environmental Caucus Session Update

March 24, 2025

April 9 is the upcoming deadline for most bills to have a work session and get voted out of their committees and onto the floor of the first chamber. You'll see a lot of activity in committees over the next few weeks in efforts to keep bills alive. Bills in Joint committees, in Rules, Revenue, and Conduct are exempt from this timeline.

### Environmental Caucus Priority Bills We're Watching This Week

[SJR 28](#) is a ballot referral for the 2026 general election that asks Oregonians to vote on whether or not to enshrine the right to a healthy environment in the Oregon constitution. You might be familiar with this concept from last year's ruling in Montana that sided in favor of Our Children's Trust, who were suing the state over their right to a clean and healthful environment. You can find out more about the Oregon effort [here](#).

**This week, a number of Environmental Caucus priority bills have committee works session. They are:**

**SB 688** - Performance-based regulations for utilities

[HB 2941](#) - Positions at the Dept. of Ed. to leverage federal funding

[HB 3336](#) - Requiring utilities to develop and file GETS plans with the PUC

[HB 3546](#) - Allowing the PUC to create a new rate class for large power users

[HB 3580](#) - Funding a task force for eelgrass recommendations

*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 301](#) makes changes to a [2022 Oregon law](#) that limits what types of boats can be used on a certain stretch of the Willamette River. The bill (with the -1 amendment) would allow for larger boats to use the river, although wake surfing would still be prohibited. For more background on the 2022 legislation, check out this [OPB article from 2022](#). Additionally, you can see the Oregon Marine Board's [rules for the Newberg](#)

[Pool](#). The bill has a public hearing in Senate Energy and Environment on Wednesday and a possible work session scheduled for next week.

[SB 1153](#) would change considerations of water right transfers and prohibit a transfer that results in the loss of in-stream habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species in certain places. For more information on the bill, check out the [bill summary](#) put together by Legislative policy staff. The bill has a public hearing Tuesday in Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire, with a possible work session on Thursday. [SB 427](#), related to the same topic, is also scheduled for a possible work session in the same committee on Thursday.

[HB 3932](#) would create rules that prohibit the trapping of beavers on waterways or in watersheds that are [categorized as impaired waters](#), as determined by DEQ's biennial assessment. The bill has a public hearing tomorrow in House Climate, Energy, and Environment with a possible work session scheduled on April 8.

*These are just a few of the bills getting public hearings this week. You can see what else is happening by looking at the committee agendas [posted on OLIS](#).*

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## What We're Reading This Week

[Electric vehicle owners don't buy gas. States look for other ways to pay for roads and bridges.](#) - AP

**Oregon, nine other states hit 2013 goal of getting 3.3 million electric vehicles on roads by 2025** - Oregon Capital Chronicle

[Portland councilors discuss safety of storing oil in an industrial hub sitting on a quake zone](#) - OPB

[Oregon fire officials say PacifiCorp didn't cause Santiam Fire, contradicting federal reports, jury decision](#) - OPB

[Oregon farmers say they're losing land to luxury homes and \\$800-a-night B & Bs. Hotly debated bills aim to fix that](#) - The Oregonian

[Hundreds support pausing Oregon's investment in private fossil fuel holdings but Treasury opposed](#) - Oregon Capital Chronicle

[Oregon lawmakers propose wildfire funding solutions bill](#) - OPB

And lastly, things are in full bloom at the Capitol! The view this morning walking across the mall under the cherry blossoms:





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 Gomberg  
Rep. Zach Hudson  
Rep. Travis Nelson  
Sen. Kathleen Taylor

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

Rep. Courtney Neron  
Rep. Ben Bowman  
Rep. Willy Chotzen  
Rep. Ken Helm  
Rep. Pam Marsh  
Sen. Deb Patterson