Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2011 legislative session has passed the halfway point and we are moving quickly toward the end. This session has brought with it a host of important issues and information that I will share with you. In the coming weeks I am hopeful that we can continue to spur job growth, while focusing on finalizing the budget. In this e-newsletter you will find:

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2. Oregon - A Good Place To Do Business
3. Oregon’s Economy Continues to Rebound
4. Revenue Forecast Positive For Oregon
5. Scam Alerts
6. Consumer Corner
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As your representative I value your input on the issues that are most important to you. I encourage you to contact my office with your thoughts and concerns or if I can be of any assistance. You can contact my office at (503) 986-1408 or [rep.paulholvey@state.or.us](mailto:rep.paulholvey@state.or.us).

Respectfully,

Paul Holvey

**Session Update**

The legislative session is moving along quickly. We have passed the halfway point and policy committees in the house have passed deadlines for holding public hearings and work sessions on house bills, but will continue to hear and work through bills coming from the senate. There are still a lot of important decisions that need to be made this session, including many funding and budget bills. As these bills come before us I encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns with me.

I am happy to announce that several of the bills I have been working are moving through the process. Notably, last week the House of Representatives passed a bill I introduced that allows some wineries to have restaurants on premises. HB 3280 updates current statute to reflect the growth in Oregon’s wine industry by addressing the current needs of Oregon’s wine industry while maintaining the integrity of farm land use. Two other bills I have been working on HB 2925 and HB 2928, which will protect victims of domestic violence have passed both the house and senate.

**Oregon - A Good Place to Do Business**

A recent study released by the Council on State Taxation found Oregon second in the nation in business tax competitiveness. The study, made in conjunction with Ernest &Young, looked at each states statutes and the characteristics of investment in the state emphasizing aspects such as factories and headquarter locations. Oregon was rated second because of our corporate income tax formula and the absence of both a sales and franchise tax.

<http://cst.informz.net/cst/archives/archive_1448561.html>

**Oregon’s Economy Continues to Rebound**

Oregon’s unemployment rate fell to 9.6% in April, the lowest it has been in more than two years. Nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 1,600 jobs in April, nearly half of those being in manufacturing. The Oregon data stands in contrast to the national unemployment which rose 0.2 percent for the same period.

“I am encouraged by the news issued today that Oregon’s unemployment rate continues to fall” said Rep. Holvey. “This is proof that our economic policies are having a positive impact and putting Oregonians back to work. But there is still a lot of work to do and I will continue advocating for policies that will keep Oregon’s economy growing.”

**Revenue Forecast Positive For Oregon**

The May revenue forecast was released last week and estimates an additional $128 million of revenue for the 2011-13 biennium. The estimate showed strong growth in personal income tax, increasing payroll income from job growth, and higher corporate income tax receipts.

“The latest revenue forecast estimate is just another sign that Oregon’s economy continues to recover” said Rep. Holvey. “Though these are positive signs, but we still face a budget environment that will mean cuts to services that many Oregonians rely on. As we move through the budget process in the upcoming month I will continue advocating to protect the most vulnerable.”

**Scam Alerts**

In each newsletter I provide notices from the [Oregon Scam Alert Network](http://www.doj.state.or.us/finfraud.scamalerthenetwork.shtml). Below you will find information on the most recent scams, one of which I experienced firsthand last week.

***Oregon Businesses Targeted by Fake Telemarketers***

Businesses around Oregon have recently been receiving scam telephone calls from people pretending to be with Business Oregon, The Oregon Business Development Department or other similar names. The scammers inquire about the company’s workforce and when the business last moved. Answering the questions has resulted in charges appearing on the businesses phone bills.

If your business received a similar call and answered any of the questions asked, you should contact the Attorney General’s office and your telephone service provider. More information from the Attorney General is available [here.](http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/2011/rel041311a.shtml)

***Looking For Roommates Scam***

Students at the University of Oregon looking for roommates are the targets of a recent scam on Craigslist. As of late March, scammers posing as foreign exchange students relocating to Eugene are contacting students searching for roommates and expressing interest in such accommodations. These scammers proceed to send the students a check that exceeds the cost of the room rental. The ‘foreign students’ then request that the extra, ‘mistakenly-sent’, money be returned via wire transfer. After this transfer has occurred, however, the students discover that the original rental check has bounced. UO Students have lost over $2000 to this scam. Students should be vigilant when looking for roommates and contact the attorney general’s office if they have fallen prey to this scam.

***Fake Osama bin Laden Footage***

The death of Osama bin Laden is undeniably one of the biggest stories of the last decade.  Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, however, cautions Oregonians to be careful when searching the internet for footage or news about bin Laden's death.  As seen with the [Japan earthquake and tsunami](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=pfqm4edab&et=1105387744805&s=9353&e=001sRROO8j6IiFsqmJmIF2YstBMkLUIwNlC1m_1GrGnaSIbcW-hqBi4CLQzm399JbY684BbJyYjdhMGwMz-6XjK9Svz7XrCr1KXb7NJOYFBBHAW5jXEMxn7xjeJNEKGq4-jsOUU4gRoc7cNpQucYCtG2dRHunWYxNc2), cybercriminals exploit top stories by creating fake videos, photos, Google ads, and news reports that contain malware and viruses that can harm your computer.  [See the full warning from the Attorney General here](http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/2011/rel050311.shtml).

***Epsilon Data Breach Phishing Scam***

Consumer information is at risk due to a security breach at one of America’s largest email marketing companies, Epsilon Interactive. This has placed millions of users information at risk for phishing and other hacking activities. Epsilon’s clients include some of the largest and most well known companies in America including US Bank, Target, Walgreens, Hilton Worldwide, and American Express. [See the full warning and example emails here.](http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/2011/rel040611.shtml)

**Oregon’s National Career Readiness Certificate**

Oregon’s NCRC is a certification that helps individuals stand out from applicants and assures employers that applicants have the skills needed to be successful on the job. Oregon is among 30 other states in utilizing the NCRC to provide objective documentation of fundamental workplace skills. For more information, visit [www.OregonNCRC.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=c4lsyfeab&et=1104096034174&s=20&e=001_wh8U5agRSEJNWvFrzkyz7Y8E0gLTD3wMi50dRxg_cE46LByfUevu1LL920BeU5e0OBZR1F328ZLFu7lKgK4dqU0jUAMWyKNj8p1TBVJ6Ew=).

**In the News**

***Paul’s recent news stories***

HB 3280 - As I reported earlier, last week the House passed my bill HB 3280. The following is a news story entitled “Oregon Winery Laws May Change” discussing passage of the bill - <http://www.kptv.com/news/27724773/detail.html>

HB 2925 - Also in the news is coverage of HB 2925 my bill allowing telephonic hearings in domestic violence protective order hearings. The article is entitled “Bill allows phone, video testimony” and is available at: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110415/NEWS/104150359/Bill-allows-phone-video-testimony?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CNews%7Cs>

HB 2932 – The New York Times recently did a story on four day work week legislation in Utah. My bill HB 2932 which would have studied implementing a four day work week in Oregon was included in the article. You can read it at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/02/us/02four.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=%22testing%20budget%20solutions%22&st=cse>

**District Events**

***Redistricting Committee***

Over the last couple of months the Redistricting Committee has been traveling the state to hear from Oregonians about the redistricting process. This process included a hearing in Eugene on April 16 at the University of Oregon School of Law. This hearing was attended by a number of community members and helped provide us with information for making informed decisions about the redistricting process. I appreciate everyone who showed up and took the time to have their voices heard.

Photos of the hearing are available at the following link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/oregonredistricting2011/sets/72157626423737679/with/5641808086/>

Population/Redistricting Facts:

* Oregon’s population is currently 3,831,074 - up from 3,421,399 in 2000
* With the increase in population, each of the 60 House legislative districts will have a new target population of 63,851 people. Our district, House District 8, currently contains 62,550 people.  This means that there will be shifts in our district’s boundaries adding 1,301 people
* Each Congressional district now should include 766,214 people, up from 684,279

<http://kezi.com/news/local/209947>

**Disaster Preparedness**

Scientific evidence indicates that Oregon is at risk for a large and potentially devastating tsunami created by an earthquake associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The recent earthquakes and resulting tsunamis in Japan, Samoa and New Zealand are stark reminders that we need to be prepared.

Links: The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan are stark reminders for us to always [be prepared](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/plans_train/Earthquake/shakygroundmagazine_final.pdf) in case disaster strikes. [Oregon’s Emergency Management agency](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/contact_us.shtml) has loads of information on [earthquakes](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/plans_train/earthquake_procedure_info.shtml) and [tsunamis](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/plans_train/tsunamis.shtml).  The federal government also has a website called [Ready.gov](http://brucehanna.us/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100070382.6629.811&gen=1&mailing_linkid=5337) which includes "[Get a Kit](http://brucehanna.us/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100070382.6629.811&gen=1&mailing_linkid=5338)" to help your family prepare in advance with a 36-hour kit full of supplies.  Click on "[Make A Plan](http://brucehanna.us/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100070382.6629.811&gen=1&mailing_linkid=5339)" and "[Be Informed](http://brucehanna.us/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100070382.6629.811&gen=1&mailing_linkid=5340)" for more tips on preparedness.

**Tax Subsidies**

Oregon dedicates a significant amount of revenue to tax expenditures, and more are proposed every session. More than half the dollars we take in go to tax breaks, which mean that for every dollar allocated to education, we give one dollar away as a tax break. I believe that we should take an honest look at these expenditures and require tax subsidies to be included in the budget process and measured alongside other tax breaks and spending priorities. I also believe that we should make tax expenditure information easily accessible by putting it on our transparency Web site.

**Resources**

**How Do I…** - [Information](http://www.oregon.gov/how_do_i.shtml) about how to contact a state agency or receive assistance from the State of Oregon.

**Find Assistance** - Need help finding assistance? 1-800-SAFE-NET (1-800-723-3638), a project of 211info, is a toll free number which connects Oregonians with helpful resources in their local area.

**Health Insurance Resources** – The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Oregon Health Authority have created the [Oregon Health Connect](http://www.oregonhealthconnect.org/) webpage to provide consumers information about finding and selecting health insurance resources.

**Business Resources** – This is a Web site created by Business Oregon that houses a comprehensive list of [business-friendly resources](http://www.oregon4biz.com/Grow-Your-Business/) available at all levels of government and offers a way for businesses to connect with experts in their local area regarding their business needs. They also compile a list of organizations at the local, regional, state and federal level that offer [economic development resources](http://www.oregon4biz.com/More-Business-Support/) and a list of [loan and finance programs](http://www.oregon4biz.com/Business-financing-resources/Oregon-Finance-Programs/). eDev is a nonprofit that provides [business development services](http://www.edev.org/home) to both existing and new businesses. [BizCenter](http://www.bizcenter.org/Home) services are available to anyone who owns, or is considering starting, a small business in Oregon. [Lane Metro Partnership](http://lanemetro.com/) is another great business resource, as is Smart-ups, which is an [entrepreneurial support group](http://www.smartups.org/).

**UO Events in Your Neighborhood** – The University of Oregon publishes a [bi-monthly newsletter](http://universityrelations.uoregon.edu/community?pl=public-and-government-affairs) containing events and activities that may affect your neighborhood.

**Insurance Information** – This [Web site](http://www.insurance.oregon.gov/consumer/consumer.html) provides easy to understand information about insurance in Oregon. You can also track your insurance provider’s rates and see if your provider is requesting a rate increase.

**Oregon’s Budget** – The [Oregon Budget Widget](http://oregonbudgetpriorities.com/) let’s you take the wheel and solve Oregon’s budget crisis.

**Consumer Corner**

***\*SMARxT Disposal Campaign***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America have created the [SMARxT Disposal](http://www.smarxtdisposal.net/) campaign to educate consumers about how to dispose of medicines in a safe and environmentally protective manner. In short, SMARxT DISPOSAL encourages customers not to flush our pour medications down the drain.  The safest way to dispose of medications is to place the medication in a sealable bag with a little water and mix in a material like coffee grounds or kitty litter.  It is then safe to dispose of in the trash.

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* **Worker Classification Seminar** - The Bureau of Labor and Industries is holding [Worker Classification Seminars](http://www.oregon.gov/IC/docs/Seminar_Schedule.pdf) throughout Oregon. These seminars help businesses determine whether an individual is an employee or independent contractor under Oregon law and how to treat them. Seminars and free and open to the public.
* **Honorary Page Program -** The House’s [Honorary Page Program](http://www.leg.state.or.us/honorpg.htm) provides an opportunity for students from all over the state to participate directly in the day-to-day operates of the Oregon Legislature. Honorary pages serve on the floor of the House of Representatives during regularly scheduled daily sessions and get to observe the legislative process in action. The program is available for children ages 12 and up.

**Insurance Reform**

There are several bills this session that aim to increase transparency and access to affordable healthcare. SB 99A will create the Oregon health insurance exchange, which will give Oregon consumers a central marketplace for comparing and purchasing health plans. The exchange will enable consumers to choose suitable plans that deliver the quality of benefits for the cost the consumer is willing to incur. This option of delivering the best value should help reduce healthcare costs for individuals and businesses across Oregon. This concept is supported by a wide spectrum of businesses, insurers, providers and consumer advocates. I support giving Oregonians better options for health insurance and am supporting SB 99A.

Legislation on accountability of health insurance premium increases has been introduced this session and is an effort that I have been involved with for several sessions. SB 717 and SB 718 would make health insurance companies justify their premium increases in a more transparent process. SB 717 would require the Department of Consumer and Business Services to hold public hearings in the rate review process. SB 718 would help control health insurance rate increases by requiring notification to all policyholders when rate increases are proposed. These bills are unfortunately being held from moving forward by political pressure.

As the price of health insurance skyrockets, many small businesses and individuals in Oregon have been forced to forgo providing insurance. You can hear one woman’s testimony by watching this video.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services and Oregon Health Authority have introduced a new Web site that features information about health care and health insurance. [Oregon Health Connect](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6sl8wkdab&et=1104654808367&s=1966&e=0017a8Gz4A1NLmIsQir_2TD79zUKMk1mj4QRdZLEmOUhweBVYfBAc5PH3FMaOsAMD2eu-Svsn-hmTsT8dOZG7vWH42ZN_l-07i7MlYWavRuHJoO6_x7VtqkuX7Ki9Gz0avq) can help you find insurance options and health care resources suited toward your needs. The site also gives you information regarding how to file insurance complaints, find coverage if you have pre-existing conditions or find answers to your Medicare questions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3Ih8nVvr9o>

<http://myhealthnetrateincrease.com/index.cfm>