



## OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### 2015 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Dear Friends,

This session I was appointed Chair of the House Committee on Business and Labor. We had several key pieces of legislation introduced, in my committee including: Paid Sick Leave, Workers Comp Attorney Fees, Wage Transparency, and Retirement Security. While forming these policies I always strive to be a strong advocate for working families, to provide a level playing field allowing Oregon's local businesses and economies to thrive, and to protect and preserve our natural environment. Together with other members of the Legislature, I have also been working hard to protect current critical services, invest in education and infrastructure, and to empower Oregonians with the skills and training they need to earn a living wage. I am serving on the State Workforce Investment Board and am excited about the ongoing work aligning state goals and industry sector strategies with our local workforce investment boards to better serve businesses and workers in our local communities.

It is an honor and privilege to serve the people of House District 8.

Respectfully,

Paul Holvey  
Oregon State Representative  
District 8

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**Paid Sick Leave SB 454**– One of the principal issues this session was paid sick leave: a requirement that employers provide time off to their employees. Workers often have to decide if they should lose a days' pay or come to work sick. SB 454 has become a nationally recognized legislative measure and I was proud to help craft a policy that will benefit the majority of workers.

During the session hundreds of citizens came to the Capitol to express their opinion on the issue. We heard from employees, parents, business owners, as well as representatives from cities that have already passed paid sick leave ordinances (Eugene and Portland). Oregonians overwhelmingly told us how important it is that they have paid sick leave so that they can stay home and recover quickly when they are ill, so that they can care for their sick children, and so that even when they fall ill they are still able pay their bills at the end of the month.



**Workers Comp Attorney Fees HB 2764** – The purpose of this legislation is to increase the access to representation and benefits for injured workers. It updated attorney fee schedules in areas where these fees have not been previously paid or were inadequate to compensate for the time and work required for attorneys to obtain a successful result for workers. This bill will help level the playing field for workers facing the challenge of getting the benefits that are paid for and they deserve.



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### **Environment and Public Health Legislation**

**Energy Storage HB 2193** –An important part of integrating renewables like solar and wind to the grid is figuring out a way to smooth out the spikes in renewable energy generation and eventually storing daily production for peak hours when demand is highest. This legislation will allow the Public Utilities Commission to establish guidelines for energy storage procurement and then work with electric companies to implement and procure 5 megawatt energy storage projects.

Energy storage comes in many forms: electric batteries, pump hydro, flywheels, compressed air, and thermal. This bill is purposely technology neutral, giving broad flexibility to explore any type. Energy storage will increase our capacity to utilize cleaner alternative energy sources. I was really excited to sponsor and pass HB 2193 in 2015.

**Clean Fuels SB 324** - I supported the Clean Fuels Program (also known as the Low Carbon Fuel Standard), and I opposed any attempts this session to repeal or roll it back. It is important for Oregon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and for us to take a step forward in addressing climate change.

The Clean Fuels Program complements other transportation-related strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as clean car standards, renewable fuels blending mandates, mass transit and commitments to reduce the amount that Oregonians drive. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, the program has many co-benefits including reductions in other air pollutants, improvements to public health, increased energy security, and encouraging investments in a clean energy economy.

The low-carbon standard applies to oil distributors equally, requiring them to progressively lower the amount of carbon their oil and gas products could emit. This “carbon intensity scale” includes all emissions created while extracting, refining, transporting and ultimately burning oil products. Approximately one-third of Oregon’s greenhouse gases come from transportation sources. Providing cleaner fuels such as lower carbon ethanol and biodiesel, electricity, natural gas, biogas and propane will help reduce these emissions.

**Carbon Pollution Cap and Trade HB 3470** – I firmly support the Climate Stability and Justice Act and voted for it in the House Energy and Environment Committee. HB 3470 lays the groundwork for Oregon to join California in a cap and trade system with a carbon pricing mechanism. Passage of HB 3470 would position Oregon to take dramatic action against climate change. As we have witnessed in California, British Columbia, and Quebec, carbon pricing helps drive investments in new clean energy industries and is a win for our environment and economy.

**Forest Fire Protection and Rural Communities HB 2588** – Climate changes and loss of insurance coverage to fund forest fire suppression puts Oregon General Fund Revenues at substantial risk. In addition, diminishing

resources and a reduction of federal payments to counties has resulted in inadequate levels of funding for county critical services, like public safety, infrastructure and public health.

HB 2588 is a step forward in addressing these current and future needs. If this issue remains unaddressed, the legislature will be faced with further disinvestment in education and public safety and watching our forests burn.

This proposal would create the Forestland and County Reserve Fund, raising \$10 per 1000 board feet measure to the timber harvest tax for funding fire suppression statewide and county budgets proportionate to their timber harvest levels. This proposal would be about \$45 per truckload of logs with about the first 5 truckloads exempt for each taxpayer. As Oregon continues to have record fire seasons we must continue to search for new sources of funding to fight forest fires and ask industry to pay their fair share to protect Oregon's forests.

**Neonicotinoids** HB 2589 - The use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides have adverse impacts on Oregon's bees and pollinating insects, as well as affecting the health of other native species including Salmon, aquatic invertebrates, and birds, Neonicotinoids are present in many of Oregon's waterways and ecosystems, and the strong scientific correlations of these negative impacts are clear; yet industry and government agencies refuse to take meaningful measures to protect the environment from the use of these pesticides.

Neonicotinoids are systemic and persistent in plants for years after direct application or prophylactic seed treatment. It has taken decades to figure out the mechanisms through which neonics affect the integrity of ecosystems. There is a strong case for stricter regulation.

**Aerial Pesticide Spray** - Recent incidents in which Oregonians were sprayed during aerial pesticide applications inspired me to introduce/sponsor two bills this session to limit or ban aerial pesticide spray. I am frustrated that we were not able to make progress on these bills because I am deeply concerned about this issue. One piece of legislation that did pass effecting aerial spray (HB 3549) established a 60-foot buffer zones for aerial pesticide applications, set up standard operating procedures for complaints and increased penalties. I believe this does not go far enough to protect people and would like to see Oregon implement reporting of all sprays to entities better suited to look at health and environmental quality.

- **HB 3123** – Prohibits application of pesticide by aircraft except under terms and conditions of pest emergency declaration issued by State Department of Agriculture or State Forestry Department until we can be certain that our current aerial spray practices are safe.
- **SB 613** - Requires filing notice with State Forestry Department of proposed aerial application of pesticide or proposed use of fire as planned forest management activity on privately owned forestland.



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Together we can build a stronger future for Oregon



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