



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Ahead of Earth Day, a Look at Democratic Lawmakers' Policies to Protect Oregon's Environment

Recent legislation reduces waste, supports wildlife, and keeps air and water clean

SALEM, OR – The environment is vital to the health and prosperity of Oregonians, and Senate Democrats are taking action to protect it. On Earth Day and throughout the year, sustaining our natural environment is a priority for Democratic lawmakers.

“The rich natural landscape defines our shared home as Oregonians. It’s up to us to protect it from the Trump administration’s greed,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – E Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. “Defending our environment through state law is especially urgent while our federal government moves to enrich oil and gas billionaires, gut clean water protections, and abandon climate standards.”

Oregon Senate Democrats **defend public land**. Senate Bill 1590 (2026) bars state and local governments from cooperating with the federal government if it tries to sell off public land in Oregon.

“Our public lands are the greatest inheritance we can leave our children,” said **Senator Anthony Broadman (D – Bend)**, sponsor of Senate Bill 1590. “We will not collaborate with federal efforts to privatize our national parks, our monuments, our sacred places.”

To promote **clean energy and clean water**, Democrats have passed bills that:

- Fast-track renewable energy projects (HB 4031, 2026)
- Give energy regulators the power to reward utilities for making progress on clean energy, wildfire safety, and reliability (SB 688, 2025)
- Expand a rebate program to support installation of solar energy and solar storage systems (SB 827, 2025)
- Modernize the way the state handles groundwater contamination, empowering state and local agencies to curb threats to water quality before it’s too late (SB 1154, 2025)
- Keep “forever chemicals” out of firefighting foam (SB 91, 2025)

Recent laws on **wildlife**:

- Permanently fund eradication of invasive species, conservation of wildlife, and prevention of poaching (HB 4134, 2026)
- Compensate ranchers when wolves attack livestock (SB 777, 2025)

- Prevent car crashes with wild animals, strengthening a program that creates overpasses and underpasses so wildlife stays out of the path of drivers (HB 2978, 2025)
- Helps beavers naturally improve streams and rivers (HB 3932, 2025)

Democratic lawmakers have **prevented waste in Oregon** with measures that:

- Keep batteries out of dumps and landfills, requiring battery producers to work together in organizations that collect and responsibly dispose of dead batteries (HB 4144, 2026)
- Protect your right to repair electronic equipment instead of throwing it out and replacing it (SB 1596, 2024)
- Stop the usage of disposable plastic checkout bags in stores and restaurants (SB 551, 2025)

“Oregonians value the precious resources of our land, water, and air and feel a deep connection to those values,” said **Senator Janeen Sollman, chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**. “Our policymaking respects that balance is key to protecting that relationship.”

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