



## 2019 Issue Summaries

### Defending Our Environment and Combating Climate Change

We are protecting our environment and defending Oregon's natural beauty through policies that protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the outdoor recreation we enjoy and the natural resources our state depends on. We are also committed to doing our part to combat the devastating effects of climate change through policies to build a clean energy future, protect our forests and communities from fires, and prepare our state for natural disasters.

#### **Passed Into Law**

##### Oregon Environmental Protection Act

HB 2250 sets a “baseline federal standard” of environmental law protections as those that were in effect on January 19, 2017 when President Obama left office. The bill requires DEQ and OHA to regularly assess final changes to federal environmental law to determine whether the changes are significantly less protective of public health, the environment, or natural resources than baseline federal standards.

##### Offshore Drilling Ban

SB 256 makes permanent the ban on exploration or drilling for oil, gas and sulfur off the Oregon coast. The Legislature originally adopted the ban in 2007 and later extended the policy until January 1, 2020.

##### Hydraulic Fracturing Ban

HB 2623 imposes a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” until January 2, 2025. Fracking poses risks to public health and drinking water.

##### Ditching Dirty Diesel

HB 2007 takes a meaningful first step to curb Oregon’s dirty diesel problem. This bill sets clean procurement standards for future Portland metro-area ODOT contracting, including I-205, Rose Quarter, and Abernathy Bridge. It phases out registrations of certain motor vehicles powered by diesel engines in the Portland metro area by 2025. It also prioritizes owner-operators and small businesses in accessing the Volkswagen Settlement funds to encourage earlier adoption of cleaner, newer trucks.

##### Plastic Straws on Demand

SB 90 prohibits a food and beverage provider or a convenience store from providing single-use plastic straws unless requested by the consumer, limiting the impact of plastic on the environment while ensuring access to straws for communities that need them and not placing unnecessary burdens or regulations on business. The bill authorizes a fine of up to \$25 per day after a second violation, and up to \$300 in a calendar year for each food and beverage provider or convenience store.

##### Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

HB 2509 prohibits retail establishments and restaurants in Oregon from providing single-use plastic checkout bags to customers to help reduce waste, plastic pollution, and recycling contamination across the state. The bill requires establishments to collect at least a five-cent fee per recycled paper or cloth bag and to provide recycled paper bags or reusable plastic checkout bags at no cost to customers who use a voucher under WIC or SNAP.

### Oil Train Disaster Planning

HB 2209 requires railroads that own or operate high hazard train routes to institute oil spill contingency plans and to have those plans reviewed and approved by DEQ. The bill outlines a triennial schedule for training for response to high hazard oil train spills and imposes rail user fees to pay for the program. The legislation is in response to the 2016 train derailment and fire in Mosier, Oregon.

### Green Energy Technology Battery Storage

HB 2496 modifies requirements for green energy technology (GET) in public building projects to help promote more cost-effective investments in decarbonization. The bill applies GET requirements to projects with total contract price of \$5 million or greater, and allows GET requirement to be satisfied by energy efficiency construction measures that create new energy generation capacity.

## **Made Progress, Not Signed into Law**

### Oregon Climate Action Program

HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill, passed the House on June 17 but never came up for a Senate vote. The bill would create a market-based carbon pricing program that guarantees that the state will meet its greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) goals while also strengthening Oregon's economy. The bill strengthens the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals to 80% below 1990 emissions by 2050 and adds an interim target of 45% below 1990 emissions by 2035. All investments must meet the goals of the program, which include: (1) reducing GHG emissions; (2) sequestering carbon; (3) helping communities adapt to the impact of climate change; (4) helping communities and businesses transition to a new low-carbon future. Climate science says we have limited time to act to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change and establishing a carbon pricing remains a top priority going forward. *Passed the House but not the Senate.*

### Polystyrene Ban

HB 2883 would prohibit Oregon food vendors from using polystyrene containers in selling, offering for sale, serving, or dispensing prepared food to a member of the public. *Passed the House but not the Senate.*