



March 2024

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

Legislators tackled some high-profile issues during the 2024 Short Legislative Session, keeping things largely bi-partisan. Major bills addressing drug treatment and enforcement, housing, and surprisingly, campaign finance limits, all passed with broad support.

Bi-partisanship was largely the theme of this year's session, the first in several years with no stoppage due to walkouts, or even delays in process to slow bills down. Governor Kotek named housing as her sole priority, ultimately passing SB 1537, a bill to expand available land for housing, create a new housing authority and address a few other changes to incentivize housing. The package includes around \$327 million.

Similarly, legislators found a way to address the public outcry surrounding drug use and possession, passing HB 4002 which reverses Measure 110's decriminalization of drug possession, and includes other tools for local government and law enforcement. That package was coupled with \$211 million for treatment and other mechanisms to address the drug crisis in Oregon.

Finally, business groups and organized labor were able to forge a deal implementing new campaign contribution limits starting in 2027, passing HB 4024. This will change the current law, which allows unlimited campaign contributions, and staves off several ballot measures that would have otherwise appeared on the ballot in November.

Policy bills impacting our natural resource members unsurprisingly took a slightly different tone, with some being among the most partisan bills and debates of the session, and others not making it through both chambers.

Much of our attention was focused on HB 4059, one of the most divisive bills of the session to pass. The bill proposed continued restrictions on growing canola in the Willamette Valley, and for much of the session, targeted restrictions on genetically engineered varieties. OFS will remain opposed to any bills restricting legal crops and innovations, particularly ones that ignore pragmatic, science-backed solutions.

Ultimately, HB 4059 passed in a form that extends the current 500-acre restriction on canola in the Willamette Valley for another 4 years through 2028. However, the legislature had to fix its own mistakenly drafted definition of the crop meant to be targeted. This is a good example of why politicians shouldn't be making scientific or marketing decisions, or picking winners and losers based on certain types of crops or production practices. We will work to hold back any continued efforts to limit or ban genetically engineered crops, which will be critical to the future of food production in Oregon.

On the positive side, Legislators allocated \$1 million towards addressing invasive species in Oregon, which we hope will increase education and understanding of the harmful impacts these can have on Oregon's natural and working lands. Other proposals weren't as successful: HB 4133 - which would stabilize wildfire protection funding and fairly allocate costs - died in the final days of session. HB 4049, which directed OSU to study PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in biosolids, and in the soils and crops on which biosolids have been applied, also died in the budget committee (OFS opposed).

OFS Staff



Katie Murray
Executive Director



Tiffany Monroe
Associate Director



Diann Washburn
Office Manager

2024 INTERIM CALENDAR

May 21st - Primary Election
May 29th - 31st - Legislative Days
August 28th - Revenue Forecast
September 23rd - 25th - Legislative Days
September 27th - Draft Request Deadline

November 5th - General Election
November 20th - Revenue Forecast
December 4th - LC Draft Returns
December 10th-12th - Legislative Days
December 13th - Pre-session filing Deadline
December 18th - Revenue Forecast

OFS represents you by promoting:



Science-based regulation and policy

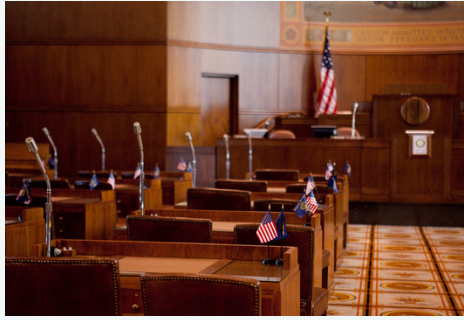


Innovation



Stewardship

OFS PRIORITY BILLS 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



HB 4049 – Directs Oregon State University to study occurrence of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in biosolids, and in the soils and crops on which biosolids have been applied. **Failed.**

HB 4059 – Amended to continue 500-acre restriction on growing canola within the Willamette Valley Protected District. **Passed.**

HB 4133 – Updates harvest tax rate to help fund wildfire costs. **Failed.**

HB 4148 – Comprehensive wildlife package which included funding for Oregon Invasive Species Council. **Failed (\$1 million allocated to OISC through HB 5701, the budget reallocation bill).**

SB 1559 – Changes state greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, with new deadlines for reduction targets and net zero. **Failed.**

SB 1561 – Establishes Environmental Restoration Council and directs the council to establish programs to distribute moneys from a legal settlement with Monsanto through Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund. **Passed.**

SB 1593 – Proposes new timber harvest tax rates. **Failed.**

HJR 201 – Creates new statewide property tax district to raise \$200 million for fire suppression and mitigation. **Failed.**

Grassroots Update

OFS continues to support local and independent grassroots groups who help educate local communities about Oregon's natural resources sector.



In March, Lane Families for Farms & Forests hosted their annual winter symposium, which included numerous natural resource producers, elected officials, community leaders, and candidates. Tillamook Working Lands & Waters Cooperative and Partnership for Lincoln Lands & Waters are planning their robust natural resources tours for the year for local leaders and legislators to allow for boots-on-the-ground interactions and discussions of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries' positive impacts and practices.

LOOKING AHEAD



This year will again bring significant change to the political landscape. At the end of session, Speaker of the House, Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis), stepped down to focus on his run for Attorney General, and will be replaced by Rep. Julie Fahey (D – Eugene), representing our third speaker in as many years. With several Senate Republicans having been ruled ineligible to run for their current seats, and several Senate Democrats running for statewide office, we expect significant turnover once again in both chambers.

The continual churn of legislators will require us to educate new candidates on our issues, including what we expect may be a tough session for defending Oregon's crops and tools. The more candidates we engage and educate, the greater success we will have. **You can help us with this work through contributions to OFS, and by donating to the OFS PAC! Visit us online to make a donation.**

ofsonline.org

EXPANDING OUR REACH

GRASSROOTS COORDINATORS



Pami Monnette, Lane County



Jenny Johnson, Clatsop County

We are immensely grateful for the county-level grassroots coordinators who collaborate with our natural resources sectors to amplify local voices and educate communities on sustainable natural resources practices.

THANK YOU to our OFS Board Members!

OFS BOARD OFFICERS:

Tami Kerr, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Chair
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Vice-Chair
Meghan Tuttle, Weyerhaeuser Company, Secretary/Treasurer

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Loren Bumgardner, West Coast Beet Seed Company
Megan Chuinard, Oregon Seed Council
Ken Dey, J.R. Simplot Company
John Enright, KWS Seed
Greg Harris, Threemile Canyon Farms
Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat Growers League
Bill Hoyt, Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Nicole Mann, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Elin Miller, Umpqua Nut Farm
Colleen Nihen, Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries

Chemical, Professional Applicators/Other:

Michelle Armstrong, Wilbur-Ellis Company
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Greg Ego, Rasmussen Spray Service
JP Mischkot, Glass Tree Care & Spray
David Phipps, Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association
Annette Price, Pacific Power
Ben Sacher, Syngenta
Alec Shebiel, Umatilla Electric Cooperative
Craig Smith, Far West Agribusiness Association
Maggie Stith, Valent USA
Lary Treleven, Oregon Pest Control Association
Paul Washburn, Western Helicopter Services
Chuck Wolsborn, Gresham Golf Course

Forest and Wood Products:

Seth Barnes, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Butch Bernhardt, Western Wood Preservers
Luke Bergey, Miami Corporation Management
Jeff DeRoss, Manulife Investment Management
John Jayne, Cascade Timber Consulting
Jerry Risk, Roseburg Forest Products
Chris Sexton, Lone Rock Timber Management
Laura Wilkeson Hampton Lumber

Ex Officio:

Kim Anderson, Oregon State University Dept. of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology