



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION UPDATE

7:30 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative delegation update was held on Friday, April 18, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang		Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace		Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney		Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services		Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology		Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant	x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department	x	Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates		Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		
Legislators Present:			
x	Representative Emerson Levy	x	Representative E. Werner Reschke
x	Reagan Knopp, Rep. Breese-Iverson's Office	x	Senator Mike McLane

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Adair reported that the swatting bill is dead, although it had bipartisan support, and DA Gunnels penned an excellent letter in support of this legislation. She expressed her disappointment.

3. Updates and Briefing from Legislators

Representative Emerson Levy provided a brief update. They are close to getting **HB 2088** past the finish line. This bill provides for a process by which former owners of real property deeded to the county due to delinquent property taxes may claim the surplus value after the property has been disposed of by the county.

The battery producer recycling responsibility bill, **HB 2062**, is sitting in Ways and Means. This legislation will not cost consumers any money and will reduce the number of battery fires.

HB 3806, the Deschutes County water bank bill, is also sitting in Ways and Means.

Representative E. Werner Reschke reported they will be discussing timber taxes on Thursday. Ways and Means is beginning to pass small budgets, and after the revenue forecast is released in Mid-May, things will begin to solidify.

Commissioner Chang asked Rep. Reschke about the wildfire funding package, noting that the current rate schedule is putting strain on rural rangeland owners. Without adequate funding sources for wildfire, money has been drawn from the General Fund (GF) to pay for debts. He asked how to close the gap and provide relief to rural rangeland owners. Rep. Reschke said that the retaliatory tax, paid by insurance companies from out of state, will be dedicated to wildfire funding as opposed to being placed directly into the GF. Other sources of revenue in the bill include an extra 5 cents per bottle tax, which is controversial.

Senator Mike McLane spoke briefly about county fair funding and wolf depredation compensation. He's currently in the process of examining Capital Construction Committee requests. Commissioner Chang spoke about Deschutes County's deflection program and offered to showcase Deschutes County's program to legislators. Rep. Reschke expressed interest in participating in such a tour, after the session concludes.

Reagan Knopp from Representative Breese-Iverson's office echoed what has been previously reported by other legislators. They are working with the Central Oregon caucus to advocate for priorities, including but not limited to CORE3 and juniper removal. He expressed appreciation to Commissioner Adair for testifying in Salem in support of **HB 3928**, Build Rural Oregon Housing Now. Unfortunately, this bill did not move forward.

Commissioner Adair spoke in opposition to the bill providing unemployment to those who are striking.

4. County Priorities – None noted

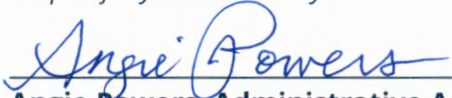
5. Closing Comments

Riggs thanked legislators for attending the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative delegation update meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 16 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 7:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant