



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, February 14, 2025 at 8:00 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	x	Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
x	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1	x	Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	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
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice		Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	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		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates	x	Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
x	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang asked to revisit **HB 2024** as discussed at the Wednesday BOCC meeting. This bill requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study the Behavioral Health (BH) workforce. Board position: priority 1/support. Commissioner Adair acknowledged that she voted opposite the Board’s position at a recent AOC meeting, however her vote made no difference towards the result. She will endeavor to align her votes with the Board’s position moving forward. Patterson noted this bill appears on the bill tracker report under Behavioral Health.

Chair DeBone shared that AOC meets weekly, noting that when the County takes a position on a bill or a topic, this is the will of the Board. He wished everyone a happy Valentine’s Day. Nick Lelack also acknowledged Oregon’s birthday.

Janice Garceau thanked the Board for its support of **HB 2024**.

Chair DeBone reported on a recent community discussion related to **SB 762**, the wildfire hazard map, noting a high level of community engagement. He sent a letter to Sen. Golden, and copied the Governor’s Office, urging a more regional mapping approach. The Governor’s office has not yet responded.

Commissioner Adair said the consequences do not end at the map, and it results in building restrictions on the owners of properties classified as high risk.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported that the Capitol was closed yesterday due to inclement weather. There has been an expectation of a draft transportation package to be released soon but it has been delayed. The Governor's Project Labor Agreement (PLA) executive order and the release of an audit are two causes of the delay.

Public testimony on the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) budget will take place soon, noting this budget leaves out IMPACTS funding. On Wednesday a hearing on **HB 3078** related to juniper removal. **HB 3135** is another juniper bill. On Thursday there will be a hearing on the CORE3 bill.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Jen Patterson discussed **HB 2410**, which allows the Energy Facility Siting council to allow small modular reactor energy facilities. Chair DeBone said Umatilla County is an advocate for this bill. Commissioner Chang noted that nuclear waste treatment is an important consideration, adding that he doesn't wish to support without proper consideration for adequate waste management. Board position: priority 3/support.

Riggs said that **HB 3104** is one of the CORE3 bills and is a proposal to create rural workforce centers. This bill came out of a statewide group, iSector, tasked with working with local jurisdictions on housing and economic development. Responding to Commissioner Chang, Riggs will research and later report on Goal 11 exceptions. Board position: priority 2/watch.

HB 3135 is a bill to extend the soil and water conservation district grants for juniper removal, which were passed last session. Commissioner Chang wished to focus on fuels reduction and the main benefit for juniper removal. Riggs noted the original bill does list the goal of fuels reduction, along with hydrologic benefits. Patterson said there is a hearing on this next Wednesday at 8 a.m. The Board advocated for sending a letter of support. Board position: priority 2/support.

Steve Dennison shared that **SB 578** establishes dates by which candidates must file a statement of purpose and portrait to be included in the voters' pamphlet. Currently, there is a very tight timeline, and this bill would allow the Clerk's Office an additional week to finalize their pamphlet for printing. Dennison acknowledged Oregon's 166th birthday today. Board position: priority 2/support.

Deevy Holcomb spoke her support for **SB 816**, which relates to juvenile diversion plans and juvenile crime prevention services. Board position: priority 2/support. She also supports **HB 3375**, as it targets substance use/abuse primary prevention programs for youth. Riggs will find out whether this bill is related to a study or action and report back. Board position: priority 2/support.

Robert Tintle noted that **HB 3325** deals with Transient Room/Lodging Tax (TRT or TLT). It proposes an adjustment to the first 5% of TRT, to be used differently than it is now, with a different proportion going towards general government and marketing. Chair DeBone suggested a public work session meeting with TRT partners and local stakeholders, should this bill gain traction. Board position: priority 2/support.

Riggs added that **HB 3356** is the local government TRT proposal to allow more uses, including public safety, public facilities and housing.

HB 3518 is important to the Assessor's Office and deals with taxation and assessment funding. It revamps the current operations model and increases the Clerk's recording fee credited to the County Assessor and Taxation Fund. Tintle said it will provide additional funding to the County as CAFFA funding has decreased drastically over the past several years. Chair DeBone noted that County Assessor Scot Langton is supportive of this bill. Board position: priority 1/support.

Tom Kuhn has submitted a letter of support for **HB 5025** to the Board, and the Board was supportive of signature to this letter. Board position: priority 1/support.

Kevin Moriarty said that **SB 85** directs the State Fire Marshall to establish a neighborhood protection cooperative grant program. This will include voluntary homeowner assessment and certification. Riggs noted that the question of insurance rates is part of the conversation relative to **SB 85**. Commissioner Adair asked Riggs to please research the Oregon FAIR Plan, an insurance market for property owners. She expressed concern for property owners who have been dropped by their homeowner's insurance carrier or have experienced drastically increasing rates. Moriarty said that a neighborhood only requires 8 homeowners to become a Firewise community, and this program would likely have a higher threshold, noting that it is not linked to the wildfire hazard map. Board position: priority 1/support.

Chair DeBone said that **SB 678** undoes wildfire protection provisions adopted in 2021's **SB 762**. Discussion ensued regarding what it means for a property to be classified as high risk for wildfire. Commissioners Adair and Chang debated the issue. Board position: priority 2/watch.

Patterson said that **HB 2062** relates to a responsibility program for battery producers. It has been supported by the Board and Tim Brownell will testify.

Patterson spoke of a draft letter for a community-initiated funding request for the Terrebonne Sanitary District. The Board had no requested revisions and were supportive of signing the letter.

Patterson discussed a letter of support for the Building Wildfire Resilient Landscapes for the Protection of Indigenous Cultures and Museums grant request. It came from Oregon Living with Fire and is a partnership between Deschutes and Jefferson counties for emergency fire protection systems for High Desert Museum and Museum at Warm Springs. Responding to Commissioner Adair, Patterson will find out the requested amount of the grant and will report back to the Board at their Wednesday meeting.

Tom Kuhn shared that PHAB wishes to submit a letter of support for Public Health modernization (**HB 5025**), and he will send over a letter to the Board today. Chair DeBone and Commissioner Adair were supportive, and Commissioner Chang left the meeting prior to the discussion.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 21 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant