



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
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DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, January 31, 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	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		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	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	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
x	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
x	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
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.

Jen Patterson provided some guidance on written/verbal testimony and letters of support. Responding to a request by Janice Garceau, Patterson will provide everyone with a written summary of this protocol.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Patterson confirmed the bill tracker report only tracks priority 1 and 2 bills. Chair DeBone noted that legislative priorities not priority 1 or 2 can be discussed under Other Items at a Monday or Wednesday Board meeting.

2. Commissioner Updates

Chair DeBone discussed various avenues of advocacy by departments.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs provided an update on week two of the legislative session. Due to the large number of new members, committees are information sharing and orienting these individuals.

A memorial service was held for Peter Courtney on Wednesday. He was the longest serving Senate President. As compared to the last two or three sessions, the mood is calm with much collaboration.

A bill has been introduced to pause DEQ's clean air regulations on medium and large trucks. The Joint Committee on Transportation's recent hearing on this bill was contentious.

The governor's Executive Order requiring Project Labor Agreements on all large construction projects across the state has the capacity to derail the transportation package.

Yesterday, the first hearing was held on the package of property tax foreclosure bills.

Behavioral Health (BH) is a key topic this session, with a number of bills anticipated in this area to include BH workforce bills.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Patterson introduced **HB 2634** for discussion, regarding the Oregon Department of Agriculture's grant package for wolf depredation and financial assistance compensation. The proposal is to incorporate a financial multiplier of 7 for confirmed depredation awards and eliminate the missing livestock category. The burden of proof for missing livestock has a high threshold. Commissioner Chang, who serves on the County's Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Compensation committee, expressed support for the financial multiplier but has concerns over adequate funding for award payments. He believes prevention projects as being of critical importance. Commissioner Adair expressed support for this bill. Board position: priority 2/support.

HB 3112 establishes a program compensating ground water rights holders who relinquish all/some of their rights in critical groundwater areas. Chang said that due to the lack of designated critical groundwater areas, this bill is not relevant to the Deschutes County basin. Board position: priority 3/watch.

SB 775 requires ground water data generated to be peer reviewed. Riggs doesn't believe this bill will move in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. Board position: priority 3/watch.

Commissioner Chang wished to add a bill related to adding a water bank to the Deschutes basin to legislative tracker. Patterson will locate the bill number and add it to the bill tracker report.

HB 2178 limits LUBA appeals to those who reside or operate a business within 25 miles of the proposed land use activity boundary, and limits testimony to in-person. Peter Gutowsky noted there are several bills that would limit the ability for opponents to challenge land use decisions and allow for greater rural land use development. Riggs doesn't believe this bill will move. Board position: priority 3/watch.

Gutowsky said that **SB 73** was formulated by Central Oregon LandWatch and would eliminate all non-resource land plan amendment zone changes. Board position: priority 3/watch. The Board has taken a position of priority 1/support for the ADU fix bill **SB 75**. Gutowsky shared that **HB 3105** allows an individual to assign their certificate of water rights to another party. Chair DeBone proposed to remove 10 other land use bills off the report with a Board position of priority 3/watch. They will elevate to track status if they begin to move.

HB 3085 relates to youth residential psychiatric treatment facilities. Harris said this bill doesn't create a child psychiatric facility in our region but rather creates a triage center within the hospitals for temporary crisis respite care. It would still require that children with in-patient needs be sent out of the area for psychiatric treatment but takes them out of the hospital Emergency Departments and puts them in a more suitable area. Rep. Emerson Levy is looking into drafting a new bill or altering the existing bill to add capacity to Central Oregon. Riggs noted that regulations which create staffing shortages are key limiting factors. Commissioner Adair shared her discouragement that a regional child psychiatric facility hasn't yet been realized. Board position: priority 1/watch, and ready to move quickly to support if the bill is redesigned.

Chris Doty suggested moving the Road Department's blue highlighted bills off the report as they are placeholder bills. **HB 3119** delays the implementation of the Department of Environmental Quality's advanced clean trucks rule. Daimler-Chrysler and Papé have provided testimony describing issues including the lack of charging infrastructure for Class 7 and 8 trucks, and inferior products that don't meet industry demands. Manufacturers are asking for more time related to this bill. Currently, clean diesel engines are the preferred product. The industry is not ready for the pace of the implementing new laws. Commissioner Adair shared that she provided written testimony, and echoed Doty's comments that the infrastructure is greatly lacking. Commissioner Chang believes the goal to be worthwhile, but they must allow time to prepare, including technical assistance, incentives and creation of infrastructure, prior to creating mandates. Board position: priority 2/support. Riggs believes the decision for this bill to move or not move will be made soon. Doty will draft a letter of support for the Board's consideration.

DeBone shared that he is tracking some emergency management State Interoperability Executive Council bills related to the movement of some items from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. He will provide an update at a later meeting.

Commissioner Chang added that he would like the group to track the wildfire funding formula, which would impact fire suppression capacity and resiliency work. He'd also like to track Sen. Jeff Golden's neighborhood wildfire cooperative bill which

gives homeowners credit from their insurers for resiliency work they've done. Riggs said that wildfire bills are still in draft form.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 7 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant