



## 2015 Oregon Legislative Summation

SINE DIE, Monday, July 6, 2015, 6:05 p.m.

The 2015 Oregon Legislature officially closed at exactly 6:05 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2014 with over 2500 bills introduced during this highly partisan and aggressive session. With the upcoming 2016 “short session” being at the front end of a major Presidential election year, ground work has already begun for advocacy and collaboration on all fronts.

Below is a brief summation of the bills supported or opposed as well as key actions taken by the Bend Chamber via its Legislative Committee, Govt. Affairs Director, and members. This year marked the first in regularly scheduled conference calls held directly with our local delegation. Also noteworthy was the incorporation of a partnership in conjunction with the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC) legislative arm and its newly effective lobbying efforts.

- Developed new Bend Chamber documentation for “Proposed Public Policy Positions”
- Generated over 17 letters supporting, defending, or assisting members & partners
  - Members who signed-on (when pertinent): approximately 35
- Established and enacted new member alert tool (Legislative Alert; Call to Action) resulting in renewed communication from members and greater involvement, education and advocacy
  - Four Legislative Alerts with approximately 75 direct responses
  - Personally testified in Salem (that notified us of doing so): approximately 10
- Provided easier access for members to engage with tools above, template letters, opportunities to join our own efforts, direct connects with legislators and testimonial support/feedback
- Relationships and reciprocal communication with local delegates is strong and consistent
- Pertinent relationships established with but not limited to: EDCO, City of Bend, Deschutes County, Regional Solutions Advisory Committee, COAR, COBA, OSU Cascades, BPRD, and regional cities and chambers

The Bend Chamber supported opportunities for business and economic health throughout the central Oregon community by both an offensive and defensive agenda. Letters and actions to support and oppose bills had a variety of successes, amendments, and failures but still established relevance.

➤ **The following are bills we SUPPORTED that passed or died:**

### **SUPPORTED / PASSED**

- SB 611 – Data centers not centrally-assessed facility subject to arbitrary taxation of intangibles
- SB 129 – Gain share
- HJM 19 - Geothermal Research Lab in Deschutes County (Letter w/EDCO)
- HB 2643 – E-zones streamlined, eliminates cap on number
- HB 2075 – Local airport funding (Betsy Johnson supportive; OSCC work)
- HB 2734 - Brownfields land bank authority as municipal corp. (assists businesses)
- HB 3282 - Sequential UGB Approval
- HB 2728 – Oregon Talent Council (Career & Tech Education/Workforce Dev.)
- HB 5015 - \$35 million in CTE



(Support / Passed continued)

- HB 3236 – Limits non-compete clause to 18 months
- HB 2011 - Individual Development Account (IDA) Expansion (**Letter 4/20**)
- HB 5030 / SB 5525 – Regional Solutions funding of two priority projects – Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs w/OSU-C and transit project funding (**Letters on each 6/15**)

#### **SUPPORTED / DEAD**

- SB 849 - Skiing Activities SB 849 (**Letter 3/20**) – **DEAD but 2016 coalition work has begun**
- HB 3283 - Mirror Pond \$5M Lottery Bonds (**Letter 4/20**)
- HB 2959 - Affordable Housing Document Fees to counties
- HB 2276 – OR Growth Board funding \$1.9 for startups/entrepreneurs
- HB 2289 – Tax credit for cleanup of brownfield property
- HB 2449 - Biomass tax credits – sunset
- HB 3182 - Transit (COIC)
- HB 2235 - "Raise It or Waive It" re: Appeal Fees
- HB 3379 - Limits Appeal Fee to \$1000 HB 3379
- HB 2464 – Lottery bonds for multi-modal transportation projects
- HB 2281 – Comprehensive Transportation Funding Package

➤ **The following are bills we OPPOSED that passed or died:**

#### **OPPOSED / PASSED**

- SB 324 – Low Carbon Fuels (**Letters 2/20 & 2/11, Alert 2/11**)
- SB 454 - Paid Sick Leave (**Alert 2/11, Member testimony, Letters 2/16, 5/12, 5/28**)
- HB 2960 - Mandatory State Retirement Plan for private sector (**Alert; Call to Action**)
- HB 2764 - Workers Comp Cost Increases (amendments okay)
- HB 3025 - "Ban the Box" re: prohibits criminal background check of job applicants
- HB 2007 - Wage Disclosure (employer liability for wage discussions)

#### **OPPOSED / DEAD**

- HB 2540 - Prevailing Wage in Enterprise Zones (**Letter 2/18**)
- HB 2386 - Cease & Desist Authority to BOLI- (**Letters 3/12, 4/27, Alert 3/12**)
- HB 3034 - Removes property tax exemption for local hospitals (**Letter 5/28**)
- HB 2564 – Inclusionary Zoning (**Letter 5/20**)
- HB 2077 – Mandates C-Corps disclose tax info to public (**Letter 6/4**)
- HB 2398 – Increased tax rate on C corps
- HB 2006 - Wage Discrimination
- HB 2093 – End of session tax pkg may remove 3/5 supermajority req'd to increase taxes
- HB 3061 – Family-friendly contracting task force
- SB 824 - Clean diesel engine task force
- SB 718 - Wage Theft Allegations (liens on employer property for wage claim allegations)
- SB 845 - Penalizes large employers whose employees utilize Medicaid
- SB 888 - Flex Scheduling Mandate (**next year's "paid sick leave"**)
- **MINIMUM WAGE** increases beyond current law annual CPI increases (all bills)