



*July 2023*

## **What Would Peter Courtney Do?**

I could not help but ask myself this question as the Senate Republican walkout left me far too much time waiting in the Capitol halls. Almost 6 weeks of wondering if months of work would be lost.

I looked back at my 2019 end of session report which showed how Senate President Courtney handled walkouts when they happened on his watch.

Senator Courtney was a broker between the two parties and his goal was always maintaining respect for the institution. He did not engage in press releases that made anyone look bad. He did not pick a side or use words that could not be taken back. He did not question the integrity or motives of legislators who truly believed they were standing up for their constituents. He rose above. The majority and minority parties bickered, he mediated.

That referee was seemingly missing this time and the ideological divide was highlighted by media.

Thankfully, after weeks, our leaders ended up putting Oregon first – our budgets, our needed policies on homelessness and mental health, our urgency to have the matching funds required to apply for federal funds for semiconductors and a new interstate bridge, and our need to address wildfire, water, public defense and drought crises.

Senator Courtney led us for two decades – he set a high bar – and in the end, the new leadership did what he would have done...compromise.

The next set of concessions must be about how we run future legislative sessions. I am not talking about quorums or walkouts, I am talking about how we go about policymaking that is truly a public process. Amidst all the new technology and the public input we have been able to increase since COVID pushed us to perfect virtual testimony, there is actually less input into the decision making of our policymakers.

The reason? Almost 3,000 bills and so many people wanting to provide insights and opinions on those bills. Three minutes each (and in some cases just 90 seconds) allotted to provide public input means we are collecting sound bites, not knowledge. Bills would move to a work session with only one hearing – amendments were often posted and voted on without more input – the record was open for people to provide written thoughts, but speaking makes sure you are heard – legislators made appointments to hear from lobbyists and constituents in 15-minute increments.

The solution is not less public participation, it is **fewer bills**. I say this as someone who often asks for bills to be introduced – would I want to make it even harder for that to happen? I think it is the only way to make sure we are making GOOD policies, not just many.

I also believe the amount of bills makes it so legislators cram what should be a year's worth of work into a few months. This is hard on them, their families, their other jobs and their lives. We have a "part-time citizen legislature" – but do not be fooled – they work overtime in session and are spending more and more time each year doing legislative work during the interim. They deserve better pay.

And to be clear when considering the last two points I made – fewer bills will not mean less work for legislators, it will mean they can actually do more on each bill instead of simply rubberstamping. Much of that went on this session, partly due to walk out and short time for the House to pass a slew of Senate bills they finally received, and partly because it is a common result of one-party control. Fewer bills will mean more time for each issue to be more thoroughly considered, discussed, public input provided and actually amended and improved, mitigating the inevitable problems we end up having when laws are passed too quickly and language and impacts are not thoroughly parsed.

After more than three decades working in the building, I feel like I can say these things with knowledge of how things are, how they have changed, what is better and what is not. I, like Peter Courtney, have huge respect for the institution and the people working there, and I want to see it succeed. I continue to say I am about "how" not "no" as I work toward meaningful public policy in a world that needs more compromise.

I am honored every day by your trust in me to represent you at the Capitol and your partnership as we try to improve Oregon together.

## **2023 General Legislative Session Recap**

### **Big Picture – Best description of a strange session**

In his session wrap newsletter, **Senator Michael Dembrow** said: "It has indeed been a strange one. It was mired in controversy, accusations and false accusations, walkouts and returns, power outages and hugely distracting construction noise. It began with fears of budget reductions, program reductions, and layoffs; and it ended with a surprisingly positive revenue forecast for the coming two years. It included new leadership in the Senate and House, an astonishing number of new legislators, and a new Governor with an ambitious agenda, a brand new team, and a new (sometimes rocky) relationship with her former colleagues."

### **Numbers**

- 160 – Constitutional limit for days in odd numbered year session and exact number of days for this session
- 43 – number of days the Senate Republicans walked out
- 2/3 – The quorum number that floor sessions require...but committees only need a simple majority, so they moved things out which then backed up on Senate floor.
- 113 – the Ballot Measure Oregonians passed last November which blocks a legislator from running in the next election if they have 10 or more unexcused absences in a session.
- 10 – number of Senators who with BM 113 would not be able to run – but this will be litigated.
- 30 of 90 – legislative members who were new.
- 588 – number of bills that crammed through despite walkout.
- \$31.9 billion – State General Fund budget – this does not include dedicated funds, like gas tax for roads and bridges, just the dollars available for W&M to spend.
- 30 – number of days Governor has to veto any bills or budget bill sections.

## **Outcomes – Policies & Payouts / Bills & Buys**

Obviously, the social issues of gun control, abortion, and gender affirming care, which caused the walkout and took up so much air, were resolved in the end. While some question what all went into the negotiation to return to work, the public terms of the agreement focused on amending HB 2002 and HB 2005, along with dropping SB 33, which would have asked voters to enshrine protections for abortion, same-sex marriage, and transgender care in the Oregon Constitution.

In her legislative newsletter, **Representative Lucetta Elmer** reported these changes to the bills:

- In its original form, **HB 2002** would have allowed girls under the age of 15 to receive an abortion without parent permission or knowledge. The bill also allocated funds to rural abortion clinics in addition to college clinics....the amended version will now require parental notification **and** consent unless two doctors from different clinics agree that parental notification would result in harm to the child. Funding to rural and college abortion clinics was also removed.
- **HB 2005** was a three-part omnibus bill that proposed to expand gun-free zones, raise the minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21, and required serialization of homemade firearms or “ghost guns.” The first two sections of the bill have now been removed entirely. The bill will now only require serialization regulations for ghost guns that are consistent with federal law.

While these issues took up a lot of space including media time, floor debates, press conferences, legislator newsletters, constituent meetings and town halls, they were just two of almost 600 bills that the legislature advanced. **Other actions:**

### ***Moving***

- **Bridge** – Oregon came up with a way to fund its \$1 billion share of the interstate bridge with bonding via [HB 5005](#).
- **Self-serve** – After all these years, a bill changing the way we pump gas and the way fueling companies do business changed. [HB 2426](#) gives consumers a choice at the pump by allowing gas stations to open up 50% of their pumps to self-service.
- **DUII** – [HB 2316](#) expands Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) laws to include more types of intoxicants.

### ***Housing***

- **Funding – nearly \$2 billion**
  - \$155 million emergency allocation at beginning of session to support response and meet the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness over the course of this year.
  - \$316 million added to biennial budget for rehousing an additional 750 households, preventing homelessness for 11,700 households, creating new permanent supportive housing, providing ongoing support for 700 newly added shelter beds.
  - \$650 million in bonding for affordable housing.
- **Housing Needs & Production Targets** – [HB 2001](#) establishes the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis and associated housing production targets and reporting requirements. It includes provisions related to youth homelessness, provides for modular housing development, and includes funding for housing predevelopment loans and agricultural workforce housing. Renter notification requirements are extended when rental agreements will be terminated for non-payment, and eviction records can be sealed in certain circumstances.
- **Conversion** – [HB 2984](#) allows conversion of building from commercial use to housing within urban growth boundary under certain conditions.
- **Rent Cap** – [SB 611](#) allows previously passed rent control to withstand atypical inflation with a 10% overall cap.

## **Educating**

- **Funding**
  - Record K-12 Education Investment of \$10.2 billion (that is \$1+ billion more than the current budget cycle)
  - Combined with local property revenues, K-12 schools will get \$15.3 billion.
  - \$140+ million of the Early Literacy Success Initiative
  - \$25 million to address the state’s shortage of educators, mentoring programs and apprenticeships for beginning teachers. Extra pay and training for special education teachers, and work groups to study teacher pay and substitute teachers.
  - \$3.7 billion for higher education and student assistance including:
    - \$1 billion for public universities and \$800 million for community colleges to cover operational costs.
    - \$308.4 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant financial aid program for low-income students. That’s a \$100 million increase for the next two-year period and also help students who choose private non-profit institutions in Oregon.
    - \$24.2 million for the Tribal Student Grant program.
- **Workforce** – [SB 283](#) Addresses the shortage of educators in Oregon’s K-12 schools by strengthening workforces with teacher retention incentives, higher pay to special education teachers and provisions to make hiring easier. With [SB 279](#) Oregon would also join a compact with several other states to allow reciprocity for teacher licenses.
- **Finance and career prep** – [SB 3](#) requires Oregon high schoolers to take lessons in personal finance and career preparation.

## **Caring**

- **Universal Health Care** – [SB 1089](#) establishes governance board to develop a path for Universal Health Plan in Oregon.
- **Access to Behavioral Health Care Funding** – \$200 million for detox and substance use residential treatment facilities, workforce incentives, and preventive community services.
- **Staffing levels** – [HB 2697](#) establishes requirements for health care staff levels to provide safe patient care and [HB 3396](#) makes Investments to address issues in the pipeline for new nurses by addressing pay for nursing instructors and assisting in clinical placements for nursing students.
- **Crisis Hotline** – [HB 2757](#) and [HB 3426](#) fund a federally mandated 9-8-8 suicide crisis hotline and mobile crisis response network.
- **BM 110 changes** – [HB 2513](#) makes changes to Measure 110 program operations, requirements and funding, and [HB 2645](#) which increases penalties for possession of certain amounts of fentanyl.
- **Lowering Prescription Costs** – [SB 192](#) regulates pharmacy benefits managers and [HB 2725](#) prohibits retroactive payment denial or reduction on claim for reimbursement.
- **Behavior Health Workforce** – [HB 2235](#) convenes a work group to study behavioral health worker caseloads in rural and underserved areas of the state.
- **Addiction** – [HB 3610](#) establishes a task force to study alcohol pricing and the efficacy of addiction services in our state, with the goal of determining the best path forward to address Oregon’s addiction crisis.

## **Growing**

- **Semiconductors** – [SB 4](#), the Oregon CHIPS Act, invests \$260 million to take advantage of Oregon’s once-in-a-generation opportunity to access federal funding and grow the semiconductor economy and [HB 2009](#) provides tax incentives for research and development in the industry.

- **Broadband** – [HB 3201](#) directs the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to establish financial assistance programs that support broadband access, affordability and adoption through grants or loans.
- **Economic Infrastructure** – [HB 3410](#) allocates \$32.2 million to improve rural infrastructure and promote revitalization throughout the state including:
  - \$9 million in General Fund for the Department of Agriculture to continue a grant program to help meat processors become compliant with the State Meat Inspection Program.
  - \$10 million to the Regional Revitalization Strategies Consortium for grants and loans related to the development of housing in rural areas and small cities.
  - \$1.2 million to the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to aid businesses focused on regional food systems.
  - \$5.5 million in General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to support the outdoor recreation economy and maritime workforce.
  - \$6.5 million in Lottery Funds to the Oregon Business Development Department for grant programs related to county fairgrounds and the outdoor gear industry, as well as funding for small business district centers.

### ***Protecting***

- **Climate** – [HB 3409](#) invests \$61 million in a climate resilience package that includes funding community-based renewable energy projects, building code updates to save energy and incentives to help Oregonians and businesses take advantage of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.
- **Polystyrene Ban** – [SB 543](#) prohibits food vendors from using polystyrene foam container in sales of prepared food.
- **Wildfire** – Revising regulations from SB 762 (2021), [SB 80](#) revises existing statute regarding the statewide wildfire hazard map, changes the name and number of zone classifications, specifies a new community engagement process, and directs use of the map by state agencies. A Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program is also established, administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry with the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund established at the Department of Consumer and Business Services for paying claims for losses arising from a prescribed fire or cultural burns. In addition, [SB 82](#) establishes certain requirements for insurer that cancels or decides not to renew homeowner insurance policy, or that increases premium, for reason materially related to wildfire risk. [HB 2902](#) encourages wildfire preparation and recovery to be taught in schools to better prepare Oregon students for fire emergencies. [HB 2294](#) will dedicates \$5 million to development of pilot projects for firefighter apprenticeship training.
- **Disasters** – [HB 3059](#) creates new emergency management support programs to strengthen the state’s disaster response capabilities and establishes the Oregon Disaster Response Assistance Matching Fund. [HB 3215](#) establishes the Disaster Housing Recovery Fund to provide assistance for replacement, reconstruction or rehabilitation of residential housing destroyed by a disaster.
- **State Fire Marshal** – The legislature removed the office of the State Fire Marshal from the Oregon State Police making it its own department via [HB 3485](#), which aims to improve wildfire response and collaboration across the state, as well as improve customer service. [HB 2522](#) instructs the State Fire Marshal to establish a Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Committee to review certain provisions concerning structural fire protection and report on review and related recommendations to one the Legislative Assembly. [HB 2484](#) requires the State Fire Marshal to develop better coordination of Oregon’s urban search and rescue program.

- **Drought Package** – [HB 2010](#) is the key bill, investing \$100 million in new and existing resources to ensure families, farms, and wildlife across Oregon have clean, safe water. The measure combines certain provisions of fourteen introduced measures that include:
  - Providing support and technical assistance for farmers to improve water management practices
  - Protecting, enhancing and restoring of critical sources of drinking and other types of water systems that support local industries and ecosystems.
  - Bolstering of water-related data necessary to more efficiently detect risks and coordinate water management.

**Regulating**

- **Workplace Bullying** – [SB 851](#) requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to prepare model respectful workplace policy that employers may adopt and requires BOLI to create informational materials that identify harms to employees and employers caused by workplace bullying.
- **Workplace Hazards** – [SB 907](#) prohibits employer from retaliating or discriminating against employee or prospective employee who, in good faith and with no reasonable alternative, refuses exposure arising from hazardous condition at place of employment.

**Voting**

- **Impeachment** – Voters will be asked to grant state legislators the power to impeach statewide officials, [HJR 16](#) will be voted on in next year’s presidential election. Oregon is the only state in the nation where the legislature does not have the power to impeach a statewide official.
- **Ranked Choice Voting** – With [HB 2004](#), legislators are also allowing voters to decide whether Oregon should adopt ranked-choice voting, which involves picking preferred candidates in order rather than picking just one.
- **Salaries** – [SJR 34](#) proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to establish Independent Public Service Compensation Commission.
- **Security** - Explicitly guaranteeing each elector's right to vote and right to secret ballot, [SB 166](#) prohibits candidate accepting more than \$100 cash from a contributor, and make various other changes to administration of elections at the county clerk level.

## **American Institute of Architects Oregon**

With passage of the Climate Package (kudos to Chris Forney for all his work and Kaley Fought for her testimony) and the Board of Architect Examiner’s technical bill (applause to Mark Jacobsen, Curt Wilson and Eric Sandoval for their time and efforts) this can be considered a successful session for our advocacy efforts. However, much time and resources were spent on two of the bills that AIAO brought forward only to be thwarted by timing issues with the walkout, but more specifically with financial concerns. I cannot thank Heather Wilson, Kim Olson, Jay Raskin, Dick Steinbrugge and Jon Larson enough for the time they spent with me on our legislation. The AIAO Legislative Affairs Committee provided valuable insights and consideration of all legislation this session and we simply could not have been better served by all the members. Thank you!

[SB 848](#) – Led with incredible efforts by Marshall Coba, Jon Larson and Tonya Finley, we joined with ACEC to push a “Duty to Defend” bill. So many meetings with stakeholders, legislators, staff and counsel led to a negotiated bill that passed all policy hurdles. The Senate Judiciary Committee sent the bill to Ways & Means with unanimous approval. Financial concerns from Associated Oregon Counties caused a speed bump, but it was the Department of Administrative Service (DAS) that became the ultimate barrier to movement. DAS has committed to working with us in the next few months to untangle their financial concerns with the goal of reintroduction of legislation in 2024.

[HB 3486](#) – Resilient spaces in new school buildings so communities can return to them after an earthquake just seems like the right thing to do. Jay, Dick and I fought hard to see this legislation happen with lots of work with Legislative Counsel on the right language, incredible support and commitment to our cause by Representatives Grayber and Evans, and many conversations with legislators trying to make the complicated issue less so. But, we could not overcome opposition from the Oregon School Board Association and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators who considered this an “unfunded mandate,” forcing the legislature to find the funds to pay for seismic improvements. Legislative leadership has assured us the conversation is not over, but it will be a big hill to climb.

By the way, two bills we were working on prior to session were set aside: Timing for HB 2771, changing the State Resilience Officer duties, was not right as a new Governor with new staff needed time to determine what they want this role (which we established with legislation in 2015) to be in the current administration; and LC 3296 on building climate impacts, which saw parts of absorbed into the Resilient Efficient Buildings agenda and the Legislative Affairs Committee decided to focus on pushing that package.

As you can see in this list of bills that passed, and what is missing because it was thwarted, a good session for the built environment! The Governor has until July 25 to sign, veto, or allow legislation to become law without her signature.

### **Contracting**

[HB 2649](#)      Apprentices in Public Contracting      Effective 91 days after Sine Die  
Expands the apprenticeship utilization requirement for public improvement projects in Oregon. It includes the Oregon Department of Transportation, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, public universities, and community college districts that use public funds for construction costs. The bill mandates that contractors establish outreach plans for women, minorities, and veterans, and report information on apprentice utilization and diversity goals to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Non-compliant contractors may face penalties, with the collected funds going towards expanding apprentice training programs. Additionally, the bill increases the apprentice utilization



requirement from 12 to 15 percent of all work hours on public improvement projects starting from January 1, 2025.

*\* Final bill does not include local public contracting.*

[HB 3332](#) Buy America Requirements for Public Projects Effective 91 days after Sine Die  
Enacts Buy America requirements, similar to federal requirements, for public improvement contracts or contracts for public works by state contracting agencies in Oregon. The measure requires state contracting agency that procures public improvement contract or contract for public works, with estimated contract value of \$150,000 or more, include in solicitation documents clear and conspicuous notice that resulting public improvement contract or contract for public works will require contractors to use iron, steel, coatings for iron and steel and manufactured products that are made in the United States. Also, the measure permits the Director of Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Director of Transportation (ODOT), or their designee, to waive the requirement to use iron, steel, coatings for iron and steel and manufactured products made in United States on public improvement contracts and contracts for public works.

[HB 3572](#) 5% Preference to a B Corp Effective 91 days after Sine Die  
HB 2296 (2013) created a new corporation status for benefit companies. A benefit company is a type of corporation or limited liability company that considers its impact on society and the environment in addition to earning a profit. Benefit company status only affects corporate purpose, accountability, and transparency and does not change tax or tax- exempt status. As of March 2023, there are currently 2,635 active benefit companies operating in Oregon. HB 3572 encourages contracting agencies to grant preference to procuring public use goods and services by a benefit company, whose majority of their regular and full-time workforce operates in Oregon at the time of bidding. It allows procurement preference only if the goods and services are not more than five percent of the goods and services available from a non-benefit company contractor.

*\* SB 442, which we opposed, did fail – it provided grant preference to procuring for public use goods that are from within Oregon.*

[SB 1047](#) Contract Thresholds Effective 91 days after Sine Die  
Raises the contract price threshold under which contracting agencies may apply certain solicitation and procurement methods for public contracts and requires DAS to promote a policy of diversity, equity, and inclusion in public contracting. The measure increases small procurement dollar threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and intermediate procurement dollar threshold from to \$150,000 to \$250,000, resulting in more contracts being small and intermediate procurements, which are simpler and faster for firms to navigate.

### **Practice/Licensing**

[SB 224](#) OSBAE Bill Effective 91 days after Sine Die  
Modifies and updates statutes regulating the practice of architecture in Oregon. The measure updates terminology and concept descriptions related to architectural practice to be more consistent with architectural practice across the country.

SB 224 accomplished the following:

- Updates definitions.
- Simplifies and streamlines statutory language.
- Removes redundancies within the statutes and improve clarity and consistency.
- Removes confusion regarding plan stamping by other design professionals.
- Specifies how long project documentation should be retained.



- Reduces barriers to architectural firm registration by changing ownership and firm name requirements.
- Allows unregistered firms to offer to provide architectural services prior to registration.
- Streamlines the registration renewal process.
- Moves the list of fee-based activities to rules.
- Alters the term dates of board members and remove the five-year residency requirement.

## **Resilience**

[HB 3059](#) Disaster Response Assistance Matching Fund Effective Upon Passage  
Includes several components related to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The measure establishes the Oregon Disaster Response Assistance Matching Fund for the Department of Emergency Management to provide grants to local governments to be used as match of federal disaster aid. It directs the Legislative Revenue Office to conduct a study on tax benefits to emergency management volunteers; clarifies volunteer paid leave around disaster relief or recovery; and directs the Department of Emergency Management to provide technical assistance to local entities for several emergency related functions. Additionally, the measure directs the Department to identify existing community organizations active in disasters and provide grants for their support, and finally the measure establishes a Compliance Division within the Department relating to federal monies received. The bill includes \$1 million of one-time General Fund for deposit into the Assistance Matching Fund. It also includes \$1,268,856 General Fund for the establishment of five permanent full-time positions, four positions for the Compliance Division, and one for the grant program.

[HB 3215](#) Residential Units Destroyed by Disasters Effective Upon Passage  
Responding to wildfires, HB 3215 authorizes the Housing and Community Services Department to provide loans, grants or other assistance to repair or replace damaged residential units or infrastructure destroyed during a disaster, and support residents through rental assistance and other services. “Residential units” includes recreational vehicles, manufactured dwellings, prefabricated structures, small homes and dwelling units of any type. The measure creates the Disaster Housing Recovery Fund to take the place of the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account and transfers a balance of \$220,000 to this new account. The account will be for resources to be deposited for permissible purposes for use as needs may arise. There is no other appropriation associated with this measure.

## **Sustainability**

[HB 3031](#) Ventilation Quality in Schools Effective January 1, 2024  
Requires school districts that receive federal or state funding for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements to use that funding to assess ventilation systems, place and assess carbon dioxide monitors in every classroom, and submit a report on ventilation and carbon dioxide monitor assessments to a mechanical engineer for review. The measure further requires school districts to carry out improvements recommended by the reviewing engineer, establishes labor requirements for contractors making those improvements, and requires school districts to submit a report to the Oregon Department of Education on the improvements made.

[HB 3409](#) End of Session Climate Package Effective Upon Passage  
As the walkout lingered, legislative leadership attempted to roll a multitude of bills into “packages” in order to hasten the pace of voting should Republicans return. Most (but not all) of what was included in a package had already passed out of a policy committee in a different form and was waiting for funding. The “climate package” (HB 3409) was one such bill and it combined 15 proposals to help communities, property owners and businesses respond to the impact of climate change. It included the Oregon Global

Warming Commission (OGWC) and Natural and Working Lands (N&WL) issues, as well as urban trees guidelines.

HB 3409 also included the provisions and investments recommended by the Resilient Efficient Buildings (ReBuild) Task Force which worked throughout 2022 to develop a framework of economical, forward-thinking ways to reduce emissions and position the state to receive nearly \$1 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding. The aim is to bring down the cost of utilities and reduce Oregon's carbon footprint by:

- Making sure homes and commercial buildings are built and operated in an energy efficient manner.
- Giving contractors the necessary training to retrofit homes with energy efficient appliances and other home technologies.
- Creating a position at the Oregon Department of Energy to help Oregonians apply for and secure funding for their energy-efficiency retrofits.

As passed, HB 3409 contains policy and financial support for programs designed to address climate issues through an equitable, community-focused approach, while maximizing Oregon's federal funding opportunities. These programs include:

- Standards for resilient and energy-efficient commercial and residential buildings.
- Grants to support emergency and natural disaster resilience hubs.
- Support for renewable and clean energies in Oregon.
- Financial assistance to incentivize natural climate solutions.
- Grants to plan and develop green infrastructure projects.
- Electric vehicle incentives for medium and heavy-duty vehicles.
- Positions for environmental justice coordination, which will enable access to federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act.

Prior to one last amendment, the "aspiration" of the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was seemingly changed to make it a "policy" of the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A final amendment removed language leaving the state's emission reduction *goals* intact.

Partner bill [HB 3630](#) invests \$90 million related to the "Climate Package" - programs administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). Collectively, these programs provide for:

- Assistance for environmental justice communities.
- Development of a comprehensive state energy strategy.
- Grants for counties so they may develop energy resilience plans to prepare for, and maintain services during, major grid disruptions.
- Establishment of a home energy savings program to provide rebates, funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act, to homeowners for energy-efficient retrofits and appliances.
- Establishment of a single resource for information and technical assistance related to available energy efficiency incentives and programs.
- \$10 million to support and expand climate resilience hubs for emergency preparedness.
- \$20 million to replenish the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program, funding renewable energy and community resilience projects pursued by counties, cities, school districts, and more.

ODOE anticipates receiving \$57 million in federal funding for the High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate program, which provides rebates for purchase and installation of qualifying electrification projects in low- and moderate-income households; and \$57 million for the Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebates program, to support performance-based rebates for residential energy efficiency retrofits. Federal guidance has not yet been received and the start date for the funding is yet unknown.

## **Workplace/Workforce**

[SB 907](#)                      Workers Refusing Dangerous Work                      Effective January 1, 2024  
Makes it an unlawful practice for any person to bar or discharge from employment or discriminate against an employee or prospective employee because they refused to expose themselves to serious injury or death from a hazardous condition at the place of employment when there are no reasonable alternatives and the person is acting in good faith.

[SB 999](#)                      Paid Leave Modifications                      Effective Upon Passage  
Makes several modifications to Paid Leave Oregon and Oregon Family Leave Act, including requiring employers to offer an employee who returns from leave and whose employment no longer exists an equivalent position at a job site located within 50 miles of the original job site and requiring consideration of whether there is a significant personal bond resembling a family relationship to determine whether a person qualifies as a family member by reason of affinity.

## **Other**

[HB 2079](#)                      Historic Property Tax Credit                      Effective January 1, 2024  
Requires the Legislative Revenue Officer to study the creation of a tax credit and direct grant program to preserve historic property in Oregon. Requires the report be submitted by September 15, 2024 to the interim committees on revenue. Requires the report to include recommendations for potential legislation.

## **Capital Construction**

As per the norm, I share with the legislative committee those specific projects that have received funding this session so you may consider what possibilities lie ahead for you and/or your firms:

- [SB 5506](#)                      Budget Reconciliation (“Omnibus” or “Christmas Tree” bill)
  - [Full project list](#)
- [HB 5005](#)                      Bond Authorization
  - [Allocation description](#)
- [HB 5030](#)                      Lottery Bond Authorization
  - [Allocation description](#)