



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director  
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item L: Legislative Update  
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting**



### I. Introduction

This report provides the Board with an update to the 2015-2016 Legislative Interim and 2016 Legislative Session.

### II. Legislative Update

Oregon Legislative interim committees met three times before the opening of the 2016 session -- September 28-30, November 16-18, and January 13-15. During Legislative Days, interim committees hold informational hearings on topics that may lead to legislation in future sessions and hear updates on the implementation of past legislation. Interim committees also hear reports from agencies and task forces, and keep current on subject areas of the committees. The Senate may convene during Legislative Days for the purpose of making executive appointments.

Attachment A contains a list of relevant natural resources committees, and includes chairs and members of each committee. During Legislative Days, OWEB did not have any issues come before these committees. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Gary Marshall was confirmed to the OWEB Board by the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments.

The 2016 Legislative Session is scheduled to begin February 1, 2016, and meet for approximately 35 days. OWEB did not introduce any agency legislative concepts for this session. However, two legislative concepts for the session have been introduced that are relevant to the agency. The first legislative concept is related to land use. Currently, the creation, restoration or enhancement of wetlands can occur in any area zoned for exclusive farm use. The introduced concept would result in the creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands on land zoned exclusive farm use being subject to county review.

The second legislative concept is related to landowner liability exemptions. Currently, Oregon statute provides immunity from liability for landowners who participate in certain habitat or water quality improvement projects. The introduced concept would remove aspects of this immunity, resulting in landowners potentially being held liable for damages resulting from restoration or enhancement projects that have occurred on their lands. Conversations are ongoing regarding this piece of legislation to determine most appropriate next steps

### **III. Recommendation**

This report is for informational purposes only. No Board action is requested at this time.

Attachment

A. Natural Resource Committee Membership

**Interim 2015-2016 Oregon Legislature  
OWEB-Related Committee Assignments**

**Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Basin)</b>
Sen. Chris Edwards, Chair (D)	7	Eugene (Willamette)
Sen. Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair (R)	20	Canby (Willamette)
Sen. Michael Dembrow (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D)	4	South Lane and North Douglas Counties (Willamette/Umpqua)
Sen. Doug Whitsett (R)	28	Klamath Falls (Klamath)

**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Basin)</b>
Rep. Brad Witt, Chair (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)
Rep. Wayne Krieger, Vice Chair (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Rep. Susan McLain, Vice Chair (D)	29	Hillsboro (Willamette)
Rep. Greg Barreto (R)	58	Pendleton (Umatilla)
Rep. Sal Esquivel (R)	6	Medford (Rogue)
Rep. Lew Frederick (D)	43	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Chris Gorsek (D)	49	Troutdale (Sandy)
Rep. Caddy McKeown (D)	9	Coos Bay (South Coast)
Rep. Gail Whitsett (R)	56	Klamath Falls (Klamath)

**House Energy and Environment Committee**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Basin)</b>
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair (D)	47	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Jeff Reardon, Vice Chair (D)	48	Happy Valley (Willamette)
Rep. Mark Johnson, Vice Chair (R)	52	Hood River (Hood River)
Rep. Cliff Bentz (R)	60	Ontario (Owyhee-Malheur)
Rep. Deborah Boone (D)	32	Cannon Beach (North Coast)
Rep. Dallas Heard (R)	2	Roseburg (Umpqua)
Rep. Ken Helm (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Paul Holvey (D)	8	Eugene (Willamette)
Rep. Jim Weidner (R)	24	McMinnville (Willamette)

**House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Basin)</b>
Rep. Brian Clem, Chair (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Ken Helm, Vice Chair (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Bill Post, Vice Chair (R)	25	Keizer (Willamette)
Rep. Mike McLane (R)	55	Powell Butte (Klamath/Rogue/Deschutes)
Rep. Vic Gilliam (R)	18	Silverton (Willamette)
Rep. David Gomberg (D)	10	Lincoln City (North Coast)
Rep. Brad Witt (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)

**Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Basin)</b>
Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair (D)	19	Tualatin (Willamette)
Rep. Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)
Sen. Bill Hansell (R)	29	Pendleton (Umatilla)
Sen. Michael Dembrow (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Brian Clem (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. David Gomberg (D)	10	Lincoln City (North Coast)
Rep. Jodi Hack (R)	19	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Julie Parrish (R)	37	Tualatin (Willamette)