



Legislative Report

April 12, 2013

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Natural Resources

Industrial Lands -Where?

[HB 2255](#) includes three concepts related to Industrial Lands:

1. Creating a new process for Industrial Reserves with broad locational factors.
2. Using a [SB 766](#) (2011) process modified in order to allow 150 acres of land to be added on the edge of a current Urban Growth Boundary if there is an employer willing to sign certain commitments.
3. Using a [SB 766](#) (2011) process modified in order to allow 50 acres of land to be added on the edge of a current Urban Growth Boundary in counties with less than 20,000 population or on the eastern border of Oregon if there is an employer willing to sign certain commitments.



Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

The League provided both oral and written [testimony](#) in **strong opposition** to this bill. Lack of industrial land is not an impediment to jobs in Oregon. It was evident by the public testimony that we have sufficient industrial land around Oregon. We know that highly trained workers and a variety of infrastructure needs are more important to businesses who want to locate here.

Call or write the [House Committee on Land Use](#) and your [legislator](#). Tell them your stories about locally available industrial lands (and how important your agricultural lands are to the agricultural industry) and ask them to **reject** [HB 2255](#).

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Appeals - An Update

By Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

[SB 77](#) will have a Work Session on April 16th. There are [amendments](#) that will require the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) to provide certain data to clarify how

[Health Care for All Persists](#)

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appeals play a limited role in our land use system. We will withdraw our opposition should the -5 amendments be adopted.

We **will not** support the -6 amendments that include an increase in LUBA appeals fees.

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A "Public" State Fair

By Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator



[SB 7A](#) would create a public corporation to run the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center. The Fair currently breaks even or has earned a profit these past few years. But the cost of upkeep of the facilities and the non-use of those facilities the other 342 days has been a financial burden to the General Fund and, for the past few years, to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The Governor's budget provides for non-Measure 76 monies to fund the Fair and Expo for the 2013-15 biennium until this new entity takes over. We hope this action will be good for both the state and the State Fair.

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Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Budget

By Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

The League has [weighed in](#) on another natural resource agency budget, [SB 5520](#). DEQ is responsible for implementing the federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Their mission:

To be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Like the Water Resources Department, we believe groundwater is critical to Oregonians; therefore, the groundwater monitoring program proposed under DEQ is an important first step. We are hopeful that the Onsite Septic System Program can be funded in a manner that truly addresses this public health issue. And we believe that the Integrated Water Resources Strategy will only move forward if DEQ is a partner with other agencies in this important work. View the [PowerPoint](#) for this budget.

Read the League's [testimony](#). **Let your legislator know how important clean air, land and water is to you.** Share personal stories around air quality, water quality and solid waste programs that DEQ administers, and that affect

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Scenes from
***Day at the
Legislature***
Coming
next week
in the
Legislative Report



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Obama
to Lead the
Climate Change
Fight**

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Alert!
[SB 401](#)
Scenic Rivers
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[SB 838](#)
Moratorium on

your daily lives.

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An Unexpected Panel

By Theresa Gibney, Natural Resources Volunteer

The Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee called it a panel that "he should take a picture of" when the Sierra Club, Citizens' Utility Board and Pacific Power jointly introduced [HB 2893](#), acknowledging that it is not often that these groups offer compromise amendments to his committee. [HB 2893](#) allows a one-year extension of Oregon's pilot "Feed In Tariff" program (so that more can be learned about the impact of this kind of incentive for solar on rooftops) and promises an investigation of the costs and benefits of both the Feed In Tariff program and the historic net metering program (that is supported by tax credits and Energy Trust incentives).

The League hopes the bill passes out of Committee with a "do pass" recommendation; it enables an increase in solar energy installations and sets up a thoughtful discussion of policy for future solar energy incentive programs.

If your [Legislator](#) is hesitant to support solar energy, call or write them and encourage their **support** of this bill.

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A Conflict of Principles

By Theresa Gibney, Natural Resources Volunteer

Through [HB 2941](#), the Oregon Military Department (OMD) requested that Pacific Power and Portland General Electric be required to install 20 MW of solar on OMD land. While the League strongly supports renewable energy, issues raised by this proposal are:

- whether the Legislature should (in law) define where renewable energy installations should be sited, and
- how costs are shared between ratepayers and taxpayers when state agencies rather than developers are the owners of these installations.

The League supports the Oregon Military Department's desire to achieve energy independence and looks forward to amendments that resolve these issues.

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Energy Siting Efficiency

By Theresa Gibney, Natural Resources Volunteer

[HB 2105A](#) passed unanimously in the House this week,

Suction Dredge
Mining
will be heard
Monday, April 15
Contact
[Senate Environment
and Natural
Resources
Committee](#)
and
Voice your support

US State Department
released statement of
**"no significant
impact"**
on Keystone Pipeline

*Does this concern
you?*

[Click here](#)

to voice your concern
Comments will be accepted
until April 15, 2013

Need more info?
click on:

[Keystone Fact Sheet](#)

[Sierra Club
Tar Sands Facts](#)

[Pipeline safe from
Climate Change](#)



Earth Day
Monday, April 22
What are your plans
on Earth Day?

*Plant a tree?
Build a birdhouse?
Clean up your
neighborhood park?*

requiring the Oregon Department of Energy to return to the Legislature in November 2013 with:

- a proposal for how to make the State's Energy Facility Siting Council work more seamlessly with local land use and state agency processes, and
- to integrate or align federal, local and state siting standards for a more efficient and understandable process.

This bill provides the new leadership at the Oregon Department of Energy an opportunity to study this issue and make a proposal to the Legislature. The Department would recommend for a faster process that can deliver decisions across the expected higher volumes of transmission construction and renewable energy site requests, without losing effectiveness.

The League is happy to see a study of alternatives before Legislation is advanced.

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Governance

Initiative Reform: Can We Get It?

Representative Garrett, Chair of the House Rules Committee and chief sponsor of [HB 2543](#) (statute) and [HJR 15](#) (amendment), testified April 1 on his initiative reform bills, with the statement that he would keep working on the proposal until it was enacted because it is that important. The League agrees and supports ([testimony](#))



Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator

this effort to mandate that any initiative, statutory or constitutional amendment, which would cost public dollars, must state the new revenue resource to pay for the program or service.

The monetary information also must include the cost into the future. Several sessions ago, the requirement that every initiative must show its fiscal impact was enacted. That information has been helpful when considering new or increasing programs, but the billions in costs, such as the mandatory sentences law, did not have a funding source.

The constitutional amendment is important because Oregon's direct democracy system is in the constitution, and major pieces of it should also be there. The League supports constitutional amendments which provide useful additions or necessary changes. [HJR 15](#) will improve the

more things to do
[Click Here](#)

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Meet Action Volunteer Becky Gladstone



"League Action work is like learning a new language and culture. I deeply admire our Team's deft insight and vigor. And I am in good company- Legislators seek their testimony. The League is well-known at the Capitol. This is exhilarating! And there's room for more-join us!"

Becky is shadowing Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator. She is tracking SB 270, the comprehensive

initiative process and make it more accountable.

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PERS: So What's Going On?

The answer to the question is, right now, who knows? The House Rules Committee heard several hours of negative testimony to [SB 822A](#), the Ways and Means Democratic co-chairs bill, as well as the essence of [SB 754](#), the Republican Caucus proposal, and many concerned public employees who are both retired and still working. The 2013-15 budget is balanced on obtaining several hundred millions of dollars from PERS savings.

The Senate Finance and Revenue Committee passed [SB 822A](#) on to Ways and Means. It had a positive hearing in the subcommittee, but it does not have enough dollars. The Republicans announced they will not support it, and their votes are needed for final passage. No doubt there are discussions going on.

Latest update. On April 11, the Senate passed [SB 822A](#) on a party line vote: 16-13 with Senator George excused. It now goes on to the House Chamber and then likely to the Governor.

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Citizens United: Oregon Weighing In

Postponed two weeks ago, three House Memorials to Congress related to Citizens United and voter suppression activities were scheduled in House Rules April 10, just in time for Day at the Legislature.

[HJM 5](#) specifically asks Congress to consider a constitutional amendment regarding voting rights of individuals and corporations.

[HJM 6](#) speaks to limiting political contributions and requests them on certain individuals and groups who are providing hundreds of millions of campaign dollars, but whose names remain undisclosed.

[HJM 8](#) calls for Congress to pass legislation that would bar barriers to voting and protect voters from too rigid voter registration laws, misinformation about polling places, too few polling places, harassment, and questionable purging.

The League supports this last Memorial.

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Senior Medical/Itemized Deductions/Agency

Oregon Higher Ed System Review and has written her first testimony this week.

Welcome to the Team Becky!

Support the Action Committee!



Please show your appreciation of the Action Committee and the Legislative Administrator by making a donation to [LWVOR](#)

It is your support that makes it possible to carry out this advocacy work at the Legislature

Volunteer to work on issues for the 2013 Legislative Session
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Fees: Looking for Dollars

A review of the four bills dealing with proposed revision of the senior medical deduction ([HB 2482](#), [HB 2483](#), [HB 2490](#), [HB 3369](#)) can be found in [Legislative Report #9](#). The original hearing was postponed until April 9. Because of the critical need for tax expenditures reductions or sun setting, it is expected that this particular deduction will:



- be cut on the basis of means testing, with phasing out of higher income persons all together, or
- a specific cap without any reference to levels of income.

Also reviewed was [HB 2456](#), which relates to personal income taxes and would eliminate either the subtraction of the itemized or standard deductions. This is Leadership's Revenue Raising bill.

[SB 399](#) and [SB 429](#) direct state agencies to deposit moneys received through civil penalties, fines and fees into the General Fund and not into funds continuously appropriated to the agencies.

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Elections, Initiatives, Ethics: Bundled

The Senate Rules committee heard several governance bills on April 10.

- [SB 147](#) adjusts the deadlines for filing portrait and candidate personal statements in the Voters' Pamphlet, as well as the deadline for filing signatures in lieu of a fee payment.
- [SB 145](#) expands the definition of a "petition committee" to include the combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than the individual, who receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing an initiative, referendum or recall petition.
- [SB 148](#) requires chief petitioners to perform criminal background checks on paid circulators.
- [SB 154](#) requires organizations or entities that pay persons to obtain signatures on election petitions to register with the Secretary of State.

Finally, the committee heard the two ethics bills passed by the House.

- [HB 2079A](#) on definitions of "member of the household" and "relative" for purposes of ethics laws, and

- [HB 2080](#) on modifying civic penalties for ethics violations.

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Social Policy

Proposed Public Safety Changes Favored by Crowd

The Joint Committee on Public Safety held public testimony on [HB 3194](#) on April 3 and 5. The hearings went overtime in order to hear advocates and opponents of this comprehensive system change bill. Proponents such as defense attorneys, parolees, parents of those sentenced under M 11, church ministers, and treatment staff spoke for the bill. District attorneys, sheriffs, and crime victims were among those opposed.



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

Former Chief Justice DeMuniz spoke in favor of changes to M 11 but other judges were opposed. The League was represented by Barbara Ross, a former legislator, who encouraged the committee to make the hard decision to support the changes to the public safety system. See League [testimony](#).

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) has played a major role in the data collection and staff support for the Commissions on Public Safety and the Joint Committee on Public Safety. The CJC Director, Craig Prins, spoke spoke about the evolution of this process at LWVOR Day at the Legislature on April 10.

Please call or e-mail your [legislator](#) to **support** these changes. These are critical policy decisions.

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Standing Firm on Gun Safety

By Marge Easley, Social Policy Volunteer

The League took a visible stand for gun violence prevention last week, in solidarity with fellow Leagues around the country who are fighting for tighter gun safety legislation. LWVOR President Robin Wisdom and Past President Marge Easley attended the Day of Action on April 4th that drew over 150 supporters, as well as a smaller number of



opponents. The rally was sponsored by the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Gun Violence, which includes Ceasefire Oregon, Moms Demand Action, and the Brady Campaign.

The League also submitted written [testimony](#) for the April 5 hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, using the national League gun safety position. Unfortunately, due to the huge number of people who showed up to testify on this volatile issue, we were unable to deliver the testimony orally. Although the hearing was a lengthy one, you may find it worthwhile and instructive to listen to the emotional and heartfelt testimony from the [audio archives](#).

The League endorsed the legislative agenda of the Alliance, which calls for the passage of:

- [SB 347](#) which allows school districts to decide whether CHL* holders may bring guns into schools, and
- [SB 700](#) which requires a background check before a firearm is transferred between private parties, except immediate family members.

In addition, the League supports:

- [SB 699](#) which requires CHL* holders to carry their guns concealed in public buildings, and
- [SB 796](#) which requires CHL* applicants to pass firing range test.

A work session for the four bills is scheduled for April 16 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. If you have not yet done so, please contact your [legislators](#) to let them know these are **common sense health and safety measures** and not infringements of second amendment rights.

*Concealed Handgun License

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New Education Divisions Await Decisions

By Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

The bills to move the Early Learning Council, [HB 3234](#), and Youth Development Council, [HB 3231](#), into the Department of Education are set for today, April 12, in the House Education Committee. The Early Learning Council process bill, [HB 2013](#) ([testimony](#)), will be heard in House Human Services on April 15. The Youth Development Council process bill, [HB 2392](#) ([testimony](#)), will be heard on Wednesday, April 17. The transition from counties to regions timeline has not yet been firmly established, and the distribution of funds between the state and counties has been a contentious issue.

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Health Care for All Persists

By Karen Nibler, Natural Resources Coordinator



[HB 3260](#) requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to conduct a study or contract with a third party to study and recommend the best option for financing health care in the state. This bill had a first public hearing on April 5 and it was carried over for an amendment on the source of funds for the study.

Bruce Goldberg, the Director of OHA, wrote a letter requesting that the funds come from outside the agency. Representative Michael Dembrow and Representative Jennifer Williamson were the authors of the bill, which was supported by an OHSU professor and OSU healthy policy professor. The bill was set for a Work Session on April 10 in the House Health Care Committee.

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Rural Doctors Get a Break

By Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

[SB 325](#) extends the tax credit for doctors practicing in a rural area. The Office of Rural Health has been managing this tax credit since 1990 for doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, anesthesiologists and podiatrists. The definition of rural is 10 miles from a population center of 40,000. A frontier area is defined as 6 or fewer people per square mile. The tax credit is a recruitment and retention tool for rural practices.

A public hearing was held on March 11, and the bill is set for a Work Session on April 15 in the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee.

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Senior Nutrition Moves Ahead

By Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

Senior Nutrition bills, [SB 456](#) and [SB 757](#) were supported by proponents. [SB 456](#) is the Farmer's Market coupons for fresh produce. It passed out of committee and was sent to Ways and Means. [SB 757](#), another Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program, was amended, passed on the Senate floor, and sent to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.



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Long Term Care Looks into the Future

By Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

[SB 21](#) passed out of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee on Monday. This bill will require advance planning in the Department of Human Services for the expected increase in the senior population.

[SB 626](#), on renaming the Long Term Care Ombudsman, has been set for a Work Session on April 15, and presumably will be sent to the Senate floor and on to the House Health Care Committee.

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