



Legislative Report

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Natural Resources

Waldo Lake

On May 16th, the Governor signed [SB 602A](#) putting in statute the ban on gasoline motors on boats and float planes on Waldo Lake. The Oregon Marine Board had ruled to ban gasoline motors on boats, but the Aviation Board ruled that float planes could continue to use Waldo Lake. Senators Prozanski and Beyer and Representative Holvey sponsored this bill to resolve the dispute and clarify that only electric motors can be used on Waldo Lake (and, of course, non-motorized watercraft). Waldo is one of only three lakes this pure in the world-one of the others is Crater Lake. The third is in Russia.



Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

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Columbia River Treaty Redux

The League again provided [testimony](#) in support of [HB 3491A](#), this time the amended version in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Philip Thor, a League volunteer, continues to follow the public review of this most important treaty between Canada and the United States.



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Water Bills Pass

[SB 199A](#) and [SB 200A](#), bills dealing with allowing leasing of water rights for in-stream use and assigning certain water rights, have been signed by the Governor. These bills are important water management tools for farmers and can also have an environmental benefit.

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Marine Board Budget

[HB 5025](#), the budget for the Oregon Marine Board, passed the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources. The budget, based on licenses and fees and federal funds, transfers some funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to inspect boats for aquatic invasive species. A new Key Performance Measure will require an increased number of boat inspections this biennium. Monies in this budget also pay for the Oregon State Police to enforce Oregon's boating laws.

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Land Use Board of Appeals Budget

[SB 5531](#), the budget for the Land Use Board of Appeals, was heard in Full Ways and Means on May 17th. The budget has been increased to return the staff attorney to this agency to assure timely review of land use appeals.

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HB 2427A: Canola

Policy bills that have a cost (a fiscal impact) to the state budget are moved to Ways and Means after the policy has been considered in a policy committee. [HB 2427A](#) was heard in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources, because the [fiscal](#) impact is \$650,000 in General Funds. The bill would prohibit raising canola in the Willamette Valley and prohibit the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) from designating any control area in the Willamette Valley that allows raising canola until January 2, 2018. The bill also directs the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University to conduct a peer-reviewed study and report the results to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2016.



Although the League did not testify on this bill, we know readers are interested in this important subject. No final determination was made, in part because of the cost. Further discussion might occur to find ways to reduce the cost or to further amend the bill. You can continue to monitor the status of this bill at [OLIS](#). Stay tuned.

[Join OCN Salem Watch](#)

Congratulations!



League of Women Voters of Klamath County

County Commissioner races are now **nonpartisan**.

League Ballot Measure 18-90 was adopted following Tuesday's vote which means about 9,000 nonaffiliated voters will now help select Klamath County Commissioners.

[Read details](#)

Great job!
Well done!

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an experiment to connect Oregonians to real decisions in Salem.

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gives Oregonians the opportunity to weigh in on our state's most urgent public policy issues. Get involved in the tough decisions ahead that affect us

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Energy

Will New Carbon-Reduction Bills Die?

[SB 844](#) (now in Senate Rules) allows Investor Owned Utilities to propose carbon reduction programs and prove to the Public Utility Commission that these bills are good for customers. [SB 537](#) (now in Senate Finance and Revenue) requires the Oregon Department of Energy to study carbon tax methodologies and propose them to the Legislature.



*Theresa Gibney
Natural Resources
Energy Volunteer*

Neither of these bills is scheduled for a work session at this time and may die in Committee this week.

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Study of Solar Incentive Programs



[HB 2893A](#) passed in the Senate this week. The bill calls for the Oregon Public Utility Commission to study solar incentive programs and also extends Oregon's Feed In Tariff "incentive" pilot program for one year to gather more data in the mid-size (10kW to 100kW) systems.

The next step for interested League members is to engage in the incentive program study at the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

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Energy Performance Score Standardization

[HB 2801A](#) was asked for by the industry that establishes energy performance scores. The industry asks that:

- a standard methodology be established (statewide),
- for there to be a professional licensing required to calculate these scores, and
- for appraisers to be trained to use them in home valuation.

all.
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These forecasts are
released 4 times a
year and are the basis
for budgeting and
decision making
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Needs your help

HB 3077 is sitting in
the

[Senate Committee on](#)

[Rules](#)

Contact the
committee [members](#)

Tell them you want a
hearing.

Tell them you want
the bill passed.

Tell them more than
70% of Oregonians
favor NPV.

Tell them you want
your vote to count.

Gun Safety Bills

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to come up on the
Senate floor?

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in support of

Essentially the industry is striving to ensure credibility and usefulness when voluntary "miles per gallon for a house" numbers are published. [HB 2801A](#) should pass out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and go to the Senate floor, this week.

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Energy Efficient Appliance Standards

After revision of [SB 692C](#) to remove larger TV's from energy efficiency standards requirements, it will go to the House floor. The amendments now set Oregon's TV standards to perfectly match California's. It keeps Oregon's market from being a dumping ground for lower efficiency TV's, but does not advance the market or the industry.



When buying, consumers will need to carefully avoid the energy inefficient TV's with 1400 square inches of viewing area or more. Efficient makes and models exist, even in this size range, but now you'll have to hunt until you find them!

Call your [Representative](#) and urge their "**yes**" vote on this bill, as three of eight Committee members voted against passing this bill to the floor, even with this compromise.

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Governance

**Revenue Forecast Up:
Budget Impasse**

While the revenue forecast for the remainder of the 2011-13 biennium (June 30) and the 2013-15 was positive, a partisan cloud hangs over the completion of a General Fund budget for the next two years. The Republicans stand firm in wanting much more revenue from PERS reform than the \$800 million in legislation already passed and signed by the Governor. They have threatened to refuse to vote for the the bill that would raise a total of \$745 million from the hospital assessment, and recoup \$1.25 billion in additional federal Medicaid funds, for the next two-year budget cycle. The money would go to the Oregon Health Authority, which would pay hospitals. They



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

common-sense
gun reform in Oregon

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Keystone Pipeline
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NO Reward

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want further cuts to PERS in return.

The Governor and the Democratic leadership reluctantly agreed to find an additional \$50 million. The Republicans turned the proposal down as insufficient, and the Governor replied that the Legislature should finish its work and go home. It is uncertain how this scenario will play out in the five weeks remaining until June 28th, the agreed upon *sine die* date, although the session can legally continue until July 13th. Under the Oregon Constitution, the only mandated action by the Legislature is the passage of a balanced budget. Any bets?

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House Generated Election Bills: Senate Action

Four important bills related to Oregon elections are being heard in the Senate Committee on Rules May 22nd.

[HB 2199A](#) makes security of unused ballots a priority in county election offices and specifies the placement of video cameras in every room, as well as the specific requirements for disposing of all unused ballots. The county clerks must submit a report on such ballots to the Secretary of State at the time of the election certification.

[HB 2988](#) allows the voter registration of 16 year olds, with the names to be filed and ballots only sent when they have reached 18.



[HB 3175A](#) requires that all public colleges and universities display a direct link to the Secretary of State's online voter registration tool and specifically allow the student governing body to provide voter registration and educational activities. The League supports these proposals.

[SB 146](#), which addresses the qualification and maintenance status of minor political parties, will have a work session.

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Open Meeting Limits: League Opposition

[HB 3513](#) is scheduled to be heard May 22th in the House Committee on Rules. The League expressed concern ([testimony](#)) over this bill that would exclude public involvement with "fact seeking activities" and "off-site inspections of property or facilities." We have asked for



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clarification and specifics regarding such activities and why the public should be excluded. We are concerned about leaving the public out of visits to sites where some individuals could talk about the issues privately with decision-makers and the public would not have the same opportunity.

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Other Governance Issues Update

[SB 270A](#), the University Governance proposal, and [HB 3120A](#), the Oregon omnibus education restructure bill, will be heard May 23rd in the Ways and Means subcommittee on Education. Both of these bills are of importance to Oregon's future educational system and pertinent to the newly adopted LWVOR study on Higher Education.

The Task Force on O&C (Oregon and California) Counties will hold an informational meeting May 29th at 8:30 a.m. to have an update from Curry, Lane and Josephine counties following their May 21st elections concerning public safety issues. The outcomes will have a bearing on the pending state legislation being discussed regarding county insolvency and inability to provide mandated services, such as assessment and taxation, elections and building codes.

On May 23rd, the Joint Committee on Tax Credits will discuss [HB 2477](#) and [SB 326](#), the identical bills to extend the Earned Income Tax credits for the working poor. The Governor's proposal is to extend the credit and increase the percentage from 6% to 8%.



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Social Policy

More Mental Health Care?

[SB 421A](#) proposed to change the length of time for a mental-health hold for persons charged with a crime. Currently, after a defendant is sent to the Oregon State Hospital to determine if he is able to aid and assist in his own defense, the case is reviewed every 6 months. A workgroup recommended that the time be extended to two years.



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

If the person gains the ability to assist, they will be returned for trial. If they are not able to regain the ability, civil commitment is the next step. The bill was heard in Ways and Means Human Services on May 15th with no action yet taken. There is a fiscal impact to length of stay at the Oregon State Hospital.

[SB 426A](#) was a companion bill to [SB 421A](#), but it was amended to change mentally ill person to person with mental illness in the 71-page statute. The bill passed the Senate earlier and passed House Judiciary on May 15th. It will go to the House floor and has no fiscal impact.

[SB 823A](#) creates a Mental Health Oversight Committee and requires the committee to monitor implementation and expenditures. The bill requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish new programs and expand existing programs in order to create a robust network of services to meet the behavioral health needs of all Oregonians. It especially targets early diagnosis and intervention for young adults 15 to 25, wraparound services for children and families, and services for the geriatric population. This bill was passed by Senate Judiciary on April 16th and referred to Ways and Means, where it has been waiting for a further review. The Addictions and Mental Health Budget was heard in the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee on February 25th - 28th and waits for a funding source.

The Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee also heard bills related to mental health on May 14th. [HB 2594A](#) proposed an option for the court to order assisted outpatient treatment for 12 months in a local community mental health agency. Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) was opposed to mandatory treatment and worked with the bill's author to amend the original bill. However, DRO still objected to the amended version due to its coercive nature. The League [testified](#) in favor of the bill for access for more people within the outpatient system. The bill could have a large fiscal impact.

The Oregon Law Commission presented [HB 2836](#) as an aid and assist process for juveniles charged with serious crimes. Juveniles could be committed to psychiatric facilities for evaluation for 60 days to a year before a final decision in the juvenile case. The juvenile could return to court for disposition as a delinquent for placement in Oregon Youth Authority or as a dependent child to be placed in a Department of Human Services or Oregon Youth Authority treatment facility. The bill was supported by the former Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz, the Oregon Law Commission Chair, Youth Rights and Justice defense attorneys and the Juvenile Department Directors Association. The bill could have a large fiscal impact. This bill could be supported by the League according to its Juvenile Justice position.

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A Win for Homeless Youth 18-20

National studies have reported an increase in homeless and runaway youth during the recession. Over the last decade, many states have adopted a number of policies to address runaway and homeless youth. The Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs states that Oregon's runaway and homeless providers serve 20,509 youth annually.



*Chris Vogel, Social
Policy Volunteer*

[House Bill 3244A](#) modifies the age of runaway and homeless youth for whom the Department of Human Services must recommend policies for the system of services and support. It clarifies the age of children as 0 through 17 years, and youth as 18 through 20 who "continue to be or who become homeless," thus applying consistent policies for service and support of foster youth and homeless youth.

Status: [HB 3244A](#) passed the House April 23rd, passed the Senate May 20th, and was sent to the Governor for his signature.

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