

- Bills We Watched -

2022 Oregon Legislature

February 1 - March 7, 2022

Report out

Oregon Community Food Systems Network

About the OCFSN Policy Committee

One of OCFSN's goals is to build our individual and collective capacity to influence public policy.

The OCFSN Policy Committee leads this work by convening and supporting OCFSN members and partners to inform, educate, learn from, respectfully challenge, build common cause, and take action together across our wide diversity of interests in the food system.

OCFSN is not, itself, a policy council or policy advocacy organization. Most OCFSN members engage with public policy in some way, but the Policy Committee does not select or lobby for a specific set of policy priorities.

OCFSN member organizations are the leaders and voices for that work.

For regular sessions of the Oregon Legislature, the OCFSN Policy Committee compiles a list of bills that OCFSN member organizations are tracking and want other members to know about.

This list is not a "platform" and does not represent an endorsement by the Network and other member organizations.

What's in this Presentation: Final Bill Status

Passed ("Enrolled"): ■

Died/did not pass

Passed 1 chamber but died ("Engrossed") ■

Didn't pass either chamber ■

Example

SB 1111: Title of the Bill

Summary	Importance	Contact Person/Organization and How to Get Involved
What is this bill about?	Why does this bill matter to community food systems?	Where can you learn more about this bill? How can you get involved?

SB 1532: Additional OSU Agricultural Extension Agents and Organic Industry Economic Assessment



HB 4048: Emerging Sectors Legislation, includes funding for Organic Industry Economic Assessment



Summary

SB 1532 directly addresses the need for greater technical assistance for Oregon farmers and ranchers using organic production practices

HB 4048 will fund OBDD to do an economic impact assessment for the organic industry

Importance

Whether producers shift fully to organic agriculture or use it as part of their product mix and marketing plan, organic farming provides valuable opportunities for Oregon's agricultural businesses.

Independent economic assessments will aid future policy making efforts

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

Contact Amy Wong at Oregon Organic Coalition:
amy@oregonorganiccoalition.org

Action Alert instructions and language is located in [this](#) Google document

HB 4048 didn't pass, but the assessment was funded by the final "Christmas tree" budget bill.

SB 1534: Natural and Working Lands

Summary

Declares that it is the policy of this state to increase carbon sequestration in, and the resilience of our farms, forests, wetlands, and coastal habitat. Also directs the state to conduct an inventory, set metrics and report back to the legislature.

Importance

The bill sets the stage for the state to establish programs, including incentives and technical assistance, to advance carbon sequestration on Oregon's natural and working lands, including agriculture

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Megan Kemple, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN) megan@oregonclimateag.org
- If you're not already engaged, please reach out to Megan about strategic opportunities to advocate including contacting your legislators and/or providing written testimony for the public hearing on Feb. 8.

SB 1510: Relating to public safety



Summary

Reforms specific police activity, parole training, and criminal legal funding. Requires police officers to inform stopped persons of their right to refuse consent to search, requires specific training and certifications for parole officers, moves money from the criminal justice general fund to mental health related funding

Importance

Passing this bill would continue efforts to reduce harm caused by police and the criminal legal system in Oregon.

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Fair Shot for All, Oregon Food Bank
- [Sign up for Action Alerts from Fair Shot](#)
- <https://bit.ly/3sapga5>

SB 1536/ HB 4058: Right to Cooling



Summary

Ensures Oregon renters are able to install cooling units in their home

Importance

Passing this bill would provide added protections for renters seeking to install cooling units in their homes, which is especially important as heat waves are likely to become more common

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Verde, Community Alliance of Tenants
Oregon Food Bank
- [Sign up for Action Alerts from Oregon Food Bank](#)
- <https://bit.ly/3sapga5>

SB 1543: Universal Legal Representation



Summary

Currently, when facing deportation, immigrants are not guaranteed legal representation. This bill provides legal representation for people who are income qualified, at risk of deportation, and in need of immigration services. Oregon Worker Relief would receive 70% of funding, and Oregon State Bar receives the rest

Importance

Passing this bill would change a xenophobic law denying the right of immigrants to be treated fairly, justly, and with dignity under the law

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Latino Network, Oregon Food Bank, Causa, Innovation Law Lab
- <https://bit.ly/3sapga5>
- [Sign up for Action Alerts from Oregon Food Bank](#)

HB 4002: Farmworker Overtime



Summary

Creates a multi-year phase-in path toward farmworkers receiving full overtime pay after 40 hours worked in a workweek. Applies to farmworkers that work on an hourly and/or piece-rate basis. The enforcement mechanism is the same as general overtime law.

The policy includes a tax credit to assist agricultural employers to cover the costs associated with paying farm workers overtime over the phase-in period

Importance

Farmworkers have been excluded from overtime pay since 1938 despite being essential workers. This exclusion was based on racism and white supremacy. Excluding farmworkers from overtime was wrong back then and it is still wrong today.

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

PCUN - Ira Cuello, Policy Manager
<iracuella@pcun.org> and
Liz Marquez, Coalition Lead
<lizmarquez@pcun.org>

- Write testimony in support of the bill
- Write letters to the editor or Op-Eds
- Post on social media
- [Sign up for Action Alerts from OFB](#)

HB 4077: Environmental Justice



Summary

Oregon Governor's
Environmental Justice Bill

Importance

Creates Environmental Justice Council within the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and creates outreach and engagement plans for the process of developing environmental justice program in the state

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- 1000 Friends of Oregon is watching this bill. Contact Greg Holmes, 1000 Friends of Oregon greg@friends.org
- For up to date information on this and other bills 1000 Friends is watching, go to <https://friends.org/2022-legislative-preview>

HB 4088: SNAP Restaurant and Meals Program Workgroup

Summary

Tasks the Department of Human Services with convening a work group to create a plan to implement a SNAP Restaurant Meals Program in Oregon. The restaurant program allows SNAP recipients to use their electronic benefit cards at participating restaurants if they are seniors, persons with disabilities, or homeless individuals.

Importance

Passing this bill begins the process of working towards a hot meal/restaurant program for SNAP recipients in Oregon, which provides more options for people who have barriers to preparing meals. [Here is a related article from The Counter.](#)

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- There is no lead organization to connect with, but you can support the bill by writing testimony.

HB 4092: Equitable Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure across Oregon

Summary

This bill would ensure that Oregon can take full advantage of federal funding that has already been earmarked for this purpose in Oregon.

Importance

Many (especially rural) parts of Oregon still do not have adequate broadband access, impacting students, remote workers, farmers and rural businesses.

Recent federal legislation has made significant funds available, but the state must put a program and policies in place to be able to access and use that funding

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- 1000 Friends of Oregon is watching this bill. Contact Greg Holmes, 1000 Friends of Oregon greg@friends.org
- For up to date information on this and other bills 1000 Friends is watching, go to <https://friends.org/2022-legislative-preview>

HB 4118: Bypassing Land Use Laws to Expand Urban Growth Boundaries

Summary

This bill would create a wholly unnecessary new way for cities to expand their urban growth boundaries in the name of providing "workforce housing."

Importance

This bill pits two needs against each other – affordable housing and farmland preservation – and because of how it is written, it won't necessarily provide the affordable housing needed, or in the places it is needed most. In addition, much of the land that would be at risk is currently being used as farmland. The legislature has made significant changes to statewide housing policy in the last 2 sessions, and the impacts are only starting to be felt. There are already ways to expand urban growth boundaries where a legitimate need has been identified. This shortcut is not necessary and is just another threat to farmland near communities.

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Contact Greg Holmes, 1000 Friends of Oregon: greg@friends.org
- For up to date information on this and other bills 1000 Friends is watching, go to <https://friends.org/2022-legislative-preview>
- This bill is also opposed by groups as diverse as the League of Cities and the Farm Bureau.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program - *this is not a bill but a request for funds in the "Christmas Tree" omnibus funding bill at the end of the session*



Summary

Request for \$5 million to fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. The OAHP is a voluntary grant program that incentivizes farmland protection and conservation, as well as succession planning.

Importance

Funding the OAHP would be critical to preventing development, keeping land in farming, making farmland more affordable, and helping with succession.

Land protection brings in a 2:1 federal funds match, and 27 other states have similar programs.

Contact Person/Organization and Support Action

- Contact 1000 Friends, Oregon Agricultural Trust, or Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts for information on how you can support the OAHP.
- Greg Holmes, 1000 Friends:
greg@friends.org

Other bills we learned about:

HB 4052: Racism is a Public Health Crisis

Requires Oregon Health Authority, guided by advisory committee to be convened by authority, to provide grants to operate two culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units, as pilot program, to improve health outcomes of Oregonians impacted by racism.

HCR 203: Protecting Oregon Workers From Climate Hazards

Declares legislative intent to address risk to workers due to climate change impacts and climate hazards.