



Memorandum: 2019 Legislative Issues

Date: December 20, 2018

From: OACD Legislative Committee

Anna H. Freitas, OACD Policy and Program Manager

Summary

2019 is a full legislative session and there are several issues of importance to OACD. The Legislative Committee will be following those issues with support from staff, reporting directly to the membership and seeking input.

The following issues have been identified as important to OACD and as bills become available for review, additional issues will be identified to the membership. OACD also invites legislative proposals from the membership. Those should be recommended to the Legislative Committee as soon as possible to be addressed in 2019. Concepts should be emailed to legislative@OACD.org.

Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program

OACD has consistently supported the OAHP program in the last two sessions and plans to maintain OAHP as a priority in this session. The OAHP Commission and OWEB support funding of \$10 million in this session to implement the program. Rules will be reviewed at the January 15-16 OWEB meeting.

Tax Issues on Working Lands

An earlier draft was provided by East Multnomah, in coordination with other districts with working lands programs, through a conference call discussion and emails beginning in 2016. The final legislative concept has now been developed by Legislative Counsel and meets the requirements of the districts with such programs (posted at website). OACD continues to support this concept and should be a part of the leadership as the bill moves forward.

Cap and Invest Legislation

Final work is occurring on the Cap and Invest Clean Energy Jobs Bill. This legislation is considering incentives and grant programs that will provide opportunities for districts to implement practices to limit environmental impacts through provision of conservation projects. Stephanie Page of the Oregon Department of Agriculture has developed a discussion paper for the Working Lands Group that is posted at our website. OACD continues to actively follow this legislation and to advocate for district opportunities.

Conservation and Recreation Bill

OACD advocates for funding to revitalize the wildlife tax deferral program that is a part of this bill. The OACD Legislative Committee strongly supports involvement as District programs have not been implemented due to lack of ODFW staffing for the program. This has been an ongoing issue dating back to 2015, engendering strong support from the Districts to provide resources for the Districts to be able to complete their work on a backlog of potential projects.

Farm to School Funding Program

OACD supported this legislation in 2017 upon the request of Districts and will again follow membership's support for funding this program.

OACD Advocacy Program

Goals for advocacy are being developed by the Advocacy Committee which evolved from the November business meeting. The committee will be able to share process and goals in January 2019, including but not limited to:

- Legislative advocacy during sessions
- Participation in issue working groups during the session and in the interim
- Coordination with other industry advocates around natural resource and other issues
- Active participation with agencies to address budget needs important to OACD members
- Participation in regulatory issues at the state level outside the legislative session
- Providing feedback to our NACD representatives on federal legislative and regulatory issues

Background

The additional capacity of adding a Policy and Program manager (Anna Freitas) allows OACD to more effectively address significant advocacy actions while increasing the internal support and communications that Districts need. In addition, the new position adds to the effectiveness of building relationships with partner organizations as an important foundation to strengthen for future advocacy actions.