

*February 22, 2015: The Oregon legislative session has begun, and it will run through late June/early July. Here are some bills in the areas of Quaker testimonies; please thoughtfully consider them, hold them in the Light, and respond as you feel led:*

And a note on how this information sheet originated:

At Willamette Quarterly Meeting in the autumn of 2014, interested Friends formed a working group to apply the practices of the Friends Committee on National Legislation on the state level in Oregon. This update is part of our efforts; it is compiled by Mary Priem of Multnomah ([mkpriem@yahoo.com](mailto:mkpriem@yahoo.com)) with lots of help from other Friends. Feedback and input will be greatly appreciated!

## **Care for the Earth:**

**SB 324: Lifts the sunset on the Oregon Clean Fuels Program** and allows this program to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels (tailpipe emissions) by 10% over 10 years. This was passed in the Oregon Senate on February 17, and **the House Committee on Energy and the Environment (chaired by strong environmentalist Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson) is holding a public hearing on it this Tuesday, February 24, at 3:00 p.m. in Salem.**

**An action you can take this week:** Write a thoughtful letter to your State Representative about this bill and your concerns about tailpipe emissions, fossil fuels, and the environment.

And if your Representative is on the committee, you might phone them in advance of the Tuesday hearing. (Reps. Pederson, Mark Johnson, Reardon, Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, & Weidner) If you are in Salem on Tuesday, you might attend the hearing (check with Rep. Pederson's office).

**Coal to Clean:** Watch this space for developing news. **Carbon Tax:** Watch this space for developing news.

## **Peace:**

1. A bill (number not available yet) that would make it easier to **enforce a judge's order to remove guns from a home in the case of domestic violence.**
2. **Background checks for all gun sales:** Watch this space.
3. **Home safety:** Requiring gun owners to keep guns locked up if there are children or teens in the home. Watch this space.

## **Equality:**

**SB 629: Oregon Right to Rest Act.** Currently in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood; no events scheduled. This bill is at the request of the Western Regional Advocacy Project, of which Sisters of the Road and Street Roots are Portland members. Text of the bill not obtained yet, but this is from WRAP's website:

“Our Right to Rest (#Right2Rest) Campaign in Oregon, California & Colorado will create legislation that protects the following rights and prohibits the enforcement of any local laws that violate these rights:

1. Right to move freely, rest, sleep, pray and be protected in public space without discrimination.
2. Right to rest in public spaces and protect oneself from the elements in a non-obstructive manner.
3. Right to occupy a legally parked vehicle.
4. Right to share food and eat in public.”

**HB 2090:** Sets up a task force “to study the relationship of large employers and their employees who are receiving public assistance and to make recommendations regarding feasibility of imposing a fee to offset shifting of expenses to public assistance.” At request of House Interim Committee on Revenue, pre-session; currently in House Committee on Business and Labor; no events yet scheduled.

**And the following “Fair Shot” package** of bills is aimed at giving every Oregonian a fair shot at earning a living that will support their family:

-- **SB 454 and HB 2005: Sick days for employees** -- Requires Oregon employers to implement a plan for their full-time and part-time employees to earn and accrue paid sick leave. (The cities of Portland and Eugene already require this, but 71% of Oregonians in low-paying jobs currently don’t have any sick leave.) Had a joint public hearing this past week. Now in the Senate Committee on Work Force and the House Committee on Business and Labor, respectively.

**An Action You Can Take This Week:** Write a thoughtful letter to your State Senator and State Representative about the issue of paid sick leave for all employees and why you find it is important. If either of them is on one of the committees (see list below), ask that the bill be sent to the floor for a vote.

**(Senate:** Dembrow (chair), Thatcher (vice-chair), Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum.

**House:** Holvey (chair), Barton (vice-chair), Kennemer (vice-chair), Barreto, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Fagan, Heard, Nosse, Weidner)

-- **SB 615 and HB 2960:** establishing a **Retirement Security Fund** for employees in Oregon so they can have access to a simple, secure retirement account that makes it easier to save. Watch this space.

-- **SB 609 and HB 2009: Oregon Minimum Wage** increasing in steps up to \$15/hour by 2018. The latter bill is in House Business and Labor.

-- **Ban the Box** -- prohibiting the “box” you have to check on an employment or housing application asking if you have ever been convicted of a felony or been incarcerated, because it results in your application being tossed out without giving you an opportunity to explain. California and 6 other states already have similar laws. No bill number yet, but watch this space. Supported by the Urban League, in light of how the “box” has a discriminatory racial impact today.

-- **HB 2001, 2002, 2003** -- addressing the problem of “**profiling**” by law enforcement officers. As the bills’ supporters say, “Greater accountability will make it so entire communities aren’t cast as suspect.” Chief sponsor is Rep. Lew Frederick; other sponsors include Reps. Keny-Guyer, Vega Pederson, Buckley, and Smith-Warner. In House Committee on the Judiciary. Watch this space.

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