



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

SB 181 and lots of new taxes among plans for roads and other spending

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The response from Grangers around Oregon in opposition to Senate Bill 181 has been impressive. Reminding legislators that the Grange is here, and is important to the charitable work and giving in their communities is just as important as any outcome we could get from lobbying on this bill.

Legislators put aside a vote on the bill June 7, but will likely hold a vote in the next few days. If you haven't already written to your representative and the governor, please do so now (links to their contact details are below). Be sure to tell them about the work your local Grange does in addition to your concerns about the possibility of losing your property tax exemption.



Transportation taxes

Legislators this year aren't just looking to SB 181 and nonprofits for new revenue. The tax and spending plan proposed by the joint transportation committee last week lists a wide range of projects, but also calls for more than \$1.5 billion in new taxes over the next two years.

Among the new taxes proposed:

- State gas tax increase of 12 cents per gallon;

- Vehicle registration fees increased annually and tied to vehicle gas mileage;
- New 0.75-percent tax on the sale of every car;
- New 0.1-percent tax on employed persons, deducted from employee pay to finance public transit;
- New 3-percent tax on sales of bicycles priced at \$500 or more;
- Charging tolls between Wilsonville and the Washington border on I-5 and I-205.

The proposal also comes with a long list of projects that would be funded in communities across the state. The projects take in just about every mode of transportation, but are largely focused on highways and bridges. Among the projects proposed:

- Rail-truck transfer facilities in Lane and Malheur counties;
- A Newberg-Dundee bypass;
- Widening I-205 to six lanes in Clackamas County from Stafford Road to Oregon City;
- Seismic reinforcement of I-205 Abernethy Bridge in Oregon City;
- Widen I-5 and Highway 217 in the Portland area.

The full list of taxes and projects is in amendments to House Bill 2017, which is 298 pages long. Email me if you'd like me to send you the full text in a pdf file (615 Kb).

Find your representative:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

Contact the governor:

<http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/share-your-opinion.aspx>