

Fuel standard moved forward despite GOP opposition

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Media Group

SALEM — Democrats in the Oregon Legislature pushed ahead Monday with a low-carbon fuel standard bill, despite objections from Republicans who said they should wait for an investigation into first lady Cylvia Hayes' paid work for a group that supports the standard.

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Diane Rosenbaum, D-Portland, said the low-carbon fuels legislation remains a top priority that Democrats want to pass early in the session, and controversy surrounding Hayes' contracts will not derail the bill.

"We think that there's a process for dealing with that and it will work its way through," Rosenbaum said of questions surrounding whether Hayes and Kitzhaber misused their public positions to benefit Hayes' consulting business. The Oregon Government Ethics Commission is considering whether to launch a formal investigation of Hayes and Kitzhaber, and a decision is expected in March.

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Don Ryan/Associated Press

Oregon Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, speaks to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources during the opening day of the Oregon legislative session, Monday, in Salem. Democratic lawmakers want to extend Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard, which is set to expire at the end of the year.

Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau reported last week that Hayes, who is engaged to Gov. John Kitzhaber, was paid a total of \$118,000 in 2011 and 2012 through a fellowship with a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit called the Clean Economy Development Center. Although it is not clear whether Hayes

worked on low-carbon fuels policy for the group, the Clean Economy Development Center conducted polling and organized a coalition in 2014 to push for an Oregon low-carbon fuel standard. The group that funded the work, The Energy Foundation in San Francisco, also separately paid Hayes

\$50,000, The Oregonian reported.

Citing the contracts and ethics commission inquiries, Republican legislative leaders on Friday called for Democrats to suspend work on the low-carbon fuel bill, SB 324. Democrats went ahead Monday with a hearing on the bill at the Senate Committee

On Environment and Natural Resources. Democrats have majorities necessary to pass the bill in both the House and Senate, if there is a party line fight.

Oregon already has a low-carbon fuels law, but it is set to sunset in May before the state actually implements the program. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission voted in January to adopt regulations that will require fuel importers and producers to reduce the carbon content of transportation fuels by 10 percent over the next decade, starting in January 2016.

One way for companies to do this would be to blend more low-carbon ethanol and biodiesel into transportation fuels. Under the new rules, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will also establish a system for entities such as electric vehicle charging stations to generate carbon credits; fuel producers and importers could purchase those credits to offset the carbon content in their gasoline and diesel.

At the Senate hearing on Monday, every seat was filled and testimony continued into the evening. The chair of the committee, Sen. Chris

Edwards, D-Eugene, said if necessary the committee will continue to take testimony on Wednesday from people who signed up to speak on Monday.

Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, is not a member of the committee but testified in support of the bill. Beyer said that although some people say an Oregon fuel standard will have little impact on global warming, "you've got to start somewhere."

Byer said the legislation is an important piece of an organized push to reduce carbon emissions in West Coast states. "The effort includes the entire West Coast, from British Columbia, to Southern California," Byer said.

Senate Republican Leader Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, also is not a member of the committee but testified at the hearing. Ferrioli said lawmakers will be in Salem until the summer, and he urged the committee to take its time to vet the fuel standard bill.

"I would suggest to you that if someone wants to run this bill this week, they're doing Oregonians a disservice because there are too many unanswered questions," Ferrioli said.

Second Harper Lee novel to be published this summer

NEW YORK (AP) — "To Kill a Mockingbird" will not be Harper Lee's only published book after all.

Publisher Harper announced Tuesday that "Go Set a Watchman," a novel the Pulitzer Prize-winning author completed in the 1950s and put aside, will be released July 14. Rediscovered last fall, "Go Set a Watchman" is essentially a sequel to "To Kill a Mockingbird," although it was finished earlier.

Reactions have ranged from a euphoric Oprah Winfrey, who issued a statement saying "I couldn't be happier if my name was Scout," to skepticism that the new book will be of the same quality as "Mockingbird." Lee biographer Charles J. Shields noted that Lee was a "beginning author" when she was writing "Watchman."

The 304-page book will be Lee's second, and the first new work in more than 50 years, among the longest gaps in history for a major writer. The publisher plans a first printing of 2 million copies.

"In the mid-1950s, I completed a novel called 'Go Set a Watchman,'" the 88-year-old Lee said in a statement issued by Harper. "It features the character known as Scout as an adult woman, and I thought it a pretty decent effort. My editor, who was taken by the flashbacks to Scout's childhood, persuaded me to write a novel (what became 'To Kill a Mockingbird') from the point of view of the young Scout.

"I was a first-time writer, so I did as I was told. I hadn't realized it (the original book) had survived, so was surprised and delighted when my dear friend and lawyer Tonja Carter discovered it. After much thought and hesitation, I shared it with a handful of people I trust and was pleased to hear that they considered it worthy of publication. I am humbled and amazed that this will now be published after all these years."

Financial terms were not disclosed. The deal was negotiated between Carter and the head of Harper's parent company, Michael Morrison of HarperCollins Publishers. "Watchman" will be



AP Photo/Rob Carr, File

Harper Lee, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," smiles during a ceremony honoring the four new members of the Alabama Academy of Honor at the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 20, 2007. Publisher Harper announced Tuesday that "Go Set a Watchman," a novel Lee completed in the 1950s and put aside, will be released July 14. It will be her second published book.

published in the United Kingdom by William Heinemann, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

According to publisher Harper, Carter came upon the manuscript at a "secure location where it had been affixed to an original typescript of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'" The new book

is set in Lee's famed Maycomb, Alabama, during the mid-1950s, 20 years after "To Kill a Mockingbird" and roughly contemporaneous with the time that Lee was writing the story. The civil rights movement was taking hold in her home state. The Supreme Court had ruled unanimously in 1954 that segregated schools were unconstitutional, and the arrest of Rosa Parks in 1955 led to the yearlong Montgomery bus boycott.

"Scout (Jean Louise Finch) has returned to Maycomb from New York to visit her father, Atticus," the publisher's announcement reads. "She is forced to grapple with issues both personal and political as she tries to understand her father's attitude toward society, and her own feelings about the place where she was born and spent her childhood."

Lee herself is a Monroeville, Alabama native who lived in New York in the 1950s and returned to her hometown. According to the publisher, the book will be released as she first wrote it, with no revisions. By midday Tuesday, "Watchman" was in the top 20 on Barnes & Noble.com. Independent sellers also expect strong interest.

"To a lot of us in bookselling, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' remains one of our all-time favorite books and it sure is exciting to know we are about to learn more of the

story," said Oren Teicher, CEO of the American Booksellers Association, the trade group for the country's independent stores.

Shields, whose "Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee" came out in 2006, said that "Mockingbird" had required extensive editing and doubted that "Watchman" has "the tight structure" of her other book.

"But if we have any of her voice, her compassion for people and her message about understanding the other in there, we'll have a very fine work," Shields said.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" is among the most beloved novels in history, with worldwide sales topping 40 million copies. It was released on July 11, 1960, won the Pulitzer Prize and was adapted into a 1962 movie of the same

name, starring Gregory Peck in an Oscar-winning performance as the courageous attorney Atticus Finch. Robert Duvall, who played the reclusive Boo Radley in the movie, issued a statement Tuesday saying that the film was a "pivotal point" for him and he was "looking forward" to the new book.

Although occasionally banned over the years because of its language and racial themes, "Mockingbird" has become a standard for reading clubs and middle schools and high schools. The absence of a second book from Lee only seemed to enhance the appeal of "Mockingbird."

Lee's publisher said the author is unlikely to do any publicity for the book. She has rarely spoken to the media since the

1960s, when she told one reporter that she wanted "to leave some record of small-town, middle-class Southern life." Until now, "To Kill a Mockingbird" had been the sole fulfillment of that goal.

"This is a remarkable literary event," Harper publisher Jonathan Bumham said in a statement. "The existence of 'Go Set a Watchman' was unknown until recently, and its discovery is an extraordinary gift to the many readers and fans of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.' Reading in many ways like a sequel to Harper Lee's classic novel, it is a compelling and ultimately moving narrative about a father and a daughter's relationship, and the life of a small Alabama town living through the racial tensions of the 1950s."

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