

Washington bills could hike fuel prices 65 cents a gallon

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — House and Senate Democrats are considering cap-and-trade, low-carbon fuels and a gas tax increase, a trifecta that critics claim could push up gas prices by 65 cents a gallon by 2028.

The state Department of Ecology disputes some assumptions that go into the forecast. The three policies, however, directly or indirectly tax petroleum and natural gas, and all are advancing in the Legislature.

Testifying April 14 against cap-and-trade, Central Washington wheat farmer Andy Juris told lawmakers that farmers and rural residents who must drive long distances would be hurt the most.

“Agriculture is simply an energy-intensive industry,” said Juris, speaking to the House Environment Committee.

“Any higher cost we’re faced with, like higher fuel prices caused by cap-and-trade, is a direct financial hit to my farm that I’m expected to absorb somehow,” he said.

With the legislative session set to end April 25, majority Democrats are finalizing budgets. Climate, transportation and “environmental justice” are priorities that drive the move to tax fossil fuels.



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

The Washington Legislature is considering bills to raise the gas tax and indirectly tax fossil fuels with cap-and-trade and a low-carbon fuel mandate.

A 16-year plan passed by the Senate Transportation Committee on April 14 relies on raising the fuel tax by 9.8 cents a gallon on July 1. Pump taxes, including the federal tax, would be 77.6 cents a gallon, second-highest in the U.S. behind California.

The transportation budget also relies on a cap-and-trade setup, which requires manufacturers to bid for the right to emit greenhouse gases.

Some climate activists scorn cap-and-trade as a loophole-riddled scheme to let “polluters” off the hook, but the policy has support from larger environmental organizations. It also appeals to budget

writers.

The auctions would be a new and huge revenue source for the state as emitters, including fossil fuel companies, bid for a dwindling number of “allowances.”

The Washington Research Council, a business-supported organization, projected cap-and-trade will increase gas prices by 18 cents a gallon and diesel prices by 21 cents a gallon in 2023.

By 2028, cap-and-trade would push gas prices up by 26 cents and diesel by 30 cents a gallon, according to the research council.

The research council projected that fuel prices will rise in lock-step with allowance prices. Ecology

accepts that allowance prices will rise, but rejects the idea that fuel prices will have a corresponding increase.

An Ecology spokesman said in an email April 15 that manufacturers could cut emissions, reducing their need to bid for emission permits.

It’s also possible that alternatives to gasoline, such as renewable diesel or electricity, would turn out to be cheaper, he said.

“While the cost of allowances may have an impact on retail gas prices to some extent, a given increase in the price of allowances is unlikely to translate directly into higher prices at the pump,” he said.

Forecasting fuel prices under a low-carbon fuel standard requires even more speculation. The government mandates more biofuels and hopes the free-market will hold down pump prices.

Stillwater Associates, a California consultant to the petroleum industry, projected in January that a House low-carbon fuel bill would raise gasoline prices by 29 cents a gallon by 2028 and 58 cents by 2035.

Oregon already has a low-carbon fuel standard. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gases from transportation fuels by 10% by 2025. At about the halfway point, the standard had added 3.7 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline in 2020, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reported April 15.

Ecology resists the idea that a low-carbon fuel standard pushes up fuel prices. The forecasts assume refineries won’t cut their costs of complying with the standard and will then pass on the full cost to customers in Washington, according to Ecology.

Farm groups are among the staunchest opponents of a low-carbon fuel standard and cap-and-trade. Juris told lawmakers that any increase in petroleum and natural gas prices will hurt.

Oregon farm building code exemption bill passes House

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

Keeping an old car or camper in the barn wouldn’t disqualify Oregon farmers from the agricultural building code exemption under a bill the state House has passed.

Agricultural buildings aren’t currently subject to building codes, but county code enforcers have called into question whether structures remain exempt if they’re used for non-farm purposes.

House Bill 2611 was proposed to clarify the problem and avoid potential litigation if farmers are eventually cited for code violations.

Farmers use their barns like home garages and shouldn’t face disqualification for storing common items in them, said Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson, R-Prineville.

“If that is the case, every farm in Oregon will lose their building code exemption because the barns are almost always used for farm uses and as a place for personal storage,” she said. “This bill will clear up an ambiguous law and help Oregon farm families.”

The House voted 48-8 in favor of HB 2611, which is supported by the Oregon

Farm Bureau and the Oregon Property Owners Association.

The bill was amended by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to clarify that farm buildings can have “incidental and accessory” uses in addition to housing livestock, storing machinery and other agricultural uses.

The items must be “personal” to the farm’s owners or their immediate family and cannot pose a greater hazard than regular farm uses.

However, HB 2611 may encounter further revisions now that it’s being considered by the Senate.

Rep. Susan McLain, R-Hillsboro, said she’d voted the bill out of committee despite concerns of building code enforcers who wanted to specify that non-farm uses be “temporary.”

That requirement wasn’t ultimately included in the version of HB 2611 passed by the House.

The Oregon Farm Bureau preferred not to include the “temporary” requirement because it could have arbitrarily limited storage to six months, while some items might need to be stored for seven or eight months, said Samantha Bayer, the organization’s policy counsel.

NW potato stocks steady despite COVID-19

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

Northwest potato stocks April 1 remained near year-earlier levels despite COVID-19 disruptions in 2020.

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service pegged Northwest stocks at 87.7 million hundredweight, up by 0.3% compared to a year earlier.

Year-to-year changes included bigger crops in Idaho and Oregon, and reduced disappearance — or movement from storage — of the processing-focused Washington crop. Oregon saw stocks drop and disappearance increase.

COVID-19 restrictions last year caused a plunge in food-service business and higher retail demand.

The Idaho Potato Commission since early in the pandemic worked with retailers to move potatoes originally intended for foodservice, which is about 60% of IPC’s

market, to retail stores. The commission has run retail bin promotions, developed new types of in-store displays and provided storage and preparation tips to consumers.

President and CEO Frank Muir said the programs helped boost shipments, “and we have not let off the throttle in the current year. We are still pedal-to-the-metal in making sure we move this year’s crop.”

He expects Idaho potato disappearance to keep increasing from year-earlier levels.

Muir said the potato industry in Idaho is recovering more quickly than the U.S. as a whole in the fresh and processing segments. Anecdotally, reports from IPC personnel who travel the country indicate the foodservice sector is starting to improve.

In Washington, more than 90% of the crop is for processing into fries and other frozen products, which limited the opportunity to pursue increased retail demand for

fresh potatoes as the pandemic unfolded, Potato Growers of Washington Executive Director Dale Lathim said.

Contracted acreage last year dropped by about 20%, he said. Potato processing for domestic and international markets also dropped substantially as production downtime affected Washington’s 13 processing plants.

Lathim said drive-thru and take-out delivery at quick-service restaurants helped the market for frozen potatoes improve, particularly in the U.S. That impact was lower in other countries, which used those modes of delivery less.

“Exports are rebounding, but they are rebounding slower than domestic sales,” he said. Washington and Oregon export a higher percentage of their crops than does Idaho, primarily due to port proximity.

Lathim said Washington potato volume is “very manageable” given the smaller crop and some promising demand.

Biden nominates USDA climate adviser to oversee farm programs

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**
Capital Press



Robert Bonnie

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Biden has nominated Robert Bonnie, a member of the Biden transition team and current USDA climate adviser, for the role of under secretary of farm production and conservation.

put climate front-and-center among USDA’s priorities.

The position is one of the highest-profile roles at USDA.

If confirmed by the Senate, Bonnie would oversee the Natural Resources Conservation

Service, Risk Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency. This means Bonnie would manage programs related to climate change, land stewardship, crop insurance and farm subsidies.

As under secretary, Bonnie would also oversee about \$10 billion to \$15 billion a year in direct payments to farmers and ranchers.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack showed his support of the nomination.

“I am grateful to President Biden for announcing his intent to nominate Robert Bonnie,” said Vilsack. “Under Robert’s steady hand, America’s farmers, ranchers, producers and landowners will see renewed focus on building and maintaining markets at home and abroad and preparing our food and agricultural community to lead the

world in climate-smart agricultural practices.”

If confirmed, this would be Bonnie’s second stint at USDA. During the Obama administration, Bonnie was under secretary for natural resources and the environment. During that time, he also oversaw the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service, and was one of Vilsack’s top advisers.

Experts say Bonnie’s history shows he’s ready to

put climate front-and-center among USDA’s priorities.

Recently, Bonnie was part of a think tank project that recommended USDA create a “carbon bank” that would pay farmers to store carbon in their soil.

At recent farm conferences, Bonnie has told producers to expect “a suite of tools” — generally incentive-based — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, capture carbon and otherwise combat climate change.

put climate front-and-center among USDA’s priorities.

Recently, Bonnie was part of a think tank project that recommended USDA create a “carbon bank” that would pay farmers to store carbon in their soil.

At recent farm conferences, Bonnie has told producers to expect “a suite of tools” — generally incentive-based — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, capture carbon and otherwise combat climate change.

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 HYUN ELANTRA 4DR
VIN = 5NPD84LF4HH083187
Amount due on lien \$1,415.00
Reputed owner(s)
PATRICIA ANN BILLERBECK

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 VW JETTA 4DR
VIN = 3VWE57BU7KM194460
Amount due on lien \$2,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
TIGER R & ALONDRA PINEDA
METLIFE

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 4DR
VIN = KMHD84LF8HU384742
Amount due on lien \$1,455.00
Reputed owner(s)
SPEEDWAY MOTORS LLC

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2011 CHEV TAHOE UT
VIN = 1GNS2E0XBR282077
Amount due on lien \$2,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
JUSTIN TIMOTHY WILLIS
SUNSET SCIENCE PARK FCU

LEGAL
NOTICE OF RYEGRASS GROWERS SEED COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS 576.416 (5), on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 7:30 a.m., via ZOOM Meeting or Call, upon a proposed budget for operation of the Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. At this hearing any producer of Oregon-grown Ryegrass seed has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection, under reasonable circumstances, in the office of each County Extension Agent in Oregon. For further information, contact the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission business office, P.O. Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302, telephone 503-364-2944. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Commission office at 503-364-2944.

LEGAL
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION PROBATE DEPARTMENT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CUONG MANH NGUYEN, deceased.
Case No.: 21PB02974
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be effected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
DATED and first published April 16th, 2021
Personal Representative
NHUNG LE
14388 NW Lilium Drive
Portland, OR 97229
Attorney
DAVID B. BECKHAM
319 Sixth Ave SW
Albany, OR 97321

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER UT
VIN = 5N1DR2MM1HC902825
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
ERNESTO M NUNEZ & ROSALINDA MEDINA
SANTANDER CONSUMER USA

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 FORD ESCAPE UT
VIN = 1FMCU0F78JUA86623
Amount due on lien \$2,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
CYNTHIA J & GLEN T SHARP
ONPOINT COMMUNITY C.U

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 FORD ESCAPE UT
VIN = 1FMCU0F78JUA86623
Amount due on lien \$2,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
BRENDON SCOTT LAMBRIGHT
FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2015 TOYOTA SCION 2DR
VIN = JTKJF5C72FJ006080
Amount due on lien \$2,395.00
Reputed owner(s)
MARTIN JONATHAN NOYOLA
TOYO MOTOR CREDIT CORP

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 HYUNDAI SONATA 4DR
VIN = 5NPE34AF5HH473298
Amount due on lien \$1,435.00
Reputed owner(s)
LINDA MARIE DAVIS
FIFTH THIRD BANK NATIONAL ASSOC

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 04/26/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2006 MERZ ML350 UT
VIN = 4JGB886E56A076249
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
YOLANDA THI HYUNH
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/03/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 KIA OPTIMA 4DR
VIN = 5XXGT4L30JG260496
Amount due on lien \$2,715.00
Reputed owner(s)
DAWNIELLE M & GEORGE R JR POST
OREGON COMM CU

LEGAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING
MAY 10, 2021 • 10:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
As required by ORS 578.151, the Oregon Wheat Commission will accept public comments on its fiscal year 2021-22 budget at the above date and time. In light of COVID-19, an electronic meeting will take place via video conference. Access the meeting via videoconference at <http://www.zoom.us/join> or phone at 1-253-215-8782 with Meeting ID 83211156924 and Passcode 699401. Copies of the Commission’s Proposed 2020-21 budget are available online at <https://www.owgl.org/p/about-us/oregon-wheat-commission>. Public comment related to the proposed budget may also be submitted via email to tsimpson@oregonwheat.org. Please email comments at the date of the hearing. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, make a request at least 48 hours (Monday-Friday) before the meeting by contacting the Commission at (503) 467-2161.