

## OREGON LEGISLATURE

## Senate President says he won't allow vote on minimum wage increase

SALEM — Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) told a group of Southern Oregon business leaders March 26 that he won't allow a vote on increasing the minimum wage.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is leading a campaign to raise the minimum wage this year, and the issue is at the top of a five-point "fair shot" agenda being pushed by a coalition of labor, civil rights and community groups.

Courtney is the state senator for District 11, representing Woodburn, Gervais, and part of Salem. Running for re-election

last year, he told the Oregon AFL-CIO he was in favor of raising the minimum wage, and got its endorsement.

But on March 26, 40 to 50 members of the Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, and Medford chambers of commerce were at the State Capitol for a five-hour meeting with House and Senate leaders. Courtney told them a minimum wage bill won't make it to the Senate floor, according to a report in the Medford Mail Tribune.

"I'm not going to do minimum wage this session," Courtney reportedly said. "I'm a De-

mocrat and that has not endeared me to my family ... I'm going to do the sick-leave thing, but I'm not going to do minimum wage ... That's a tough statement to make, but I made it here ... I will deal with the heat."

### \$15 minimum wage rally April 15

Activists will rally in Portland for a \$15 minimum wage and a union Wednesday, April 15, from noon to 2 p.m.

Workers from Portland State University, city employees, janitors, care providers and others will meet at O'Bryant Square on Southwest 9th Avenue between Washington and Stark Streets at noon. Organizers will hold a brief rally before marching to City Hall and Portland State University.

The event is sponsored in part by Laborers Local 483, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Service Employees Local 503, and Jobs with Justice. For more information, go to Facebook and search for "Fight for 15 PDX."

The change-of-heart was news to the Oregon AFL-CIO, the lead group for the coalition working to raise the minimum wage.

Courtney's office had not returned a call from the Labor Press by the time this issue went to press.

The Oregon House is considering three minimum wage bills this year. House Bill 2009, sponsored by State Rep. Rob Nosse, would raise the minimum from its current \$9.25 to \$11.50 in 2016, \$13.25 in 2017, and \$15 in 2018. HB 2008, sponsored by State Rep. Margaret Doherty, would raise the minimum to \$10.90 in 2016 and \$12.20 in 2017. And HB 2004 would let local governments set a higher minimum wage than the statewide minimum.

The Oregon House Labor Committee will hold a hearing on all three bills April 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Hearing Room F.

### Tell Wyden, Blumenauer: NO FAST TRACK

Opponents of NAFTA-style trade deals will rally outside the offices of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer April 8 to call on them to take a public stand against Fast Track, a procedure that paves the way for passage of trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is being negotiated in secret without Congressional oversight. That's 12:15 p.m., in the courtyard at 911 NE 11th Ave.

### Paid sick days bill passes committee

SALEM — On March 25, the Oregon Senate Workforce Committee voted 3-2 in favor of a bill mandating state-wide paid sick leave. SB 454 would require employers with six or more employees to provide up to five days of paid sick time each year. Workers could use the sick time to recover at home from a contagious illness, for a

doctors appointment, or care for a sick child. The Committee vote was along party lines, with Republicans voting against it. The bill now goes to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for further consideration. The vote came five weeks after a joint hearing on the bill at which over 300 people filled a hearing room and several overflow rooms.

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6 ACRES, 30x48 shop, power, well, new septic, 137 Barefoot Hollow Rd. Longview, WA, \$125,000 obo. 360-577-5231

5 ACRES, Christmas Valley/Lake County, Oregon, \$4,650 cash. 503-577-1302

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BUYING US & world coins to add to collection, paying fairly, any amount welcome. 503-939-8835

COLLECTOR, cash paid, old fishing tackle, wood plugs, reels, creels, salmon fishing photos, etc. 503-775-4166

COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, oil paintings, American art pottery, and costume jewelry. 503 703-5952

MOTORCYCLES, boat, tractors, trailers, cars, trucks, riding lawn mowers, guitars cash paid. 503-880-8183

### CLASSIFIED AD GUIDELINES

Subscribers may place one free classified ad per issue. Ads should be 15 to 20 words, all in lower case (NO CAPITAL LETTERS). Ads *must* include a phone number, including area code, or they will not be published. No commercial or business ads.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED AD

Indicate which union you are a member of, and send your ad to michael492@comcast.net or by mail to PO Box 13150, Portland OR 97213. We publish the first and third Fridays of each month, and the deadline is one week prior to that.

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