

# Wall-Street Costing Middle-Class Families

Portland, OR – Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici visited Hopworks Brewery on Tuesday to call attention to Wall Street speculation in commodity markets that is driving up the prices of aluminum, copper, gas, and electricity. This speculation is in turn raising the prices of everyday products that middle-class families use, including beer cans, home improvement products that contain copper and even gas for cars.

"Nothing gets an Oregonian madder than messing with our Oregon beer, and that's just what Wall Street is

doing," said Merkley. "We can't let Wall Street get away with rampant speculation in commodity markets that in turn hurts our middle class families and our Oregon brewers. That's why I'm calling on our federal regulators to rein in this speculation. Families shouldn't have to pay a speculation 'tax' at the pump, the home repair store and the beer aisle."

"I will continue working with Senator Merkley and Congresswoman Bonamici to shine a light on runaway speculation," said Blumenauer. "This unregulated gambling does little to serve the broader economy while burdening American fami-

lies who have already suffered at the hands of Wall Street's reckless behavior."

"Small businesses are an important part of our economy and our communities. It's alarming to learn that commodity speculation is driving up costs for our local businesses," said Bonamici. "Federal regulators need to prevent these rising costs by moving quickly to enforce the Dodd Frank reforms, and members of Congress should be fighting attempts to undermine implementation through funding cuts and piecemeal repeal. We should be doing all we can to help families and small businesses in Oregon and across

the country."

During a Senate Banking committee hearing two weeks ago, major beer manufacturers testified about how the aluminum market has drastically changed over the past few years driving aluminum prices up through a convoluted exchange and warehouse system. This has resulted in long wait times to acquire aluminum and an increased price.

Today, Merkley, Blumenauer and Bonamici joined together to send a letter to financial regulators calling on them to take the necessary steps to end the speculation driving up the prices for middle-class families.

## Week in the Review



### A-Rod Suspended

Following allegations of consuming performance enhancing drugs, star New York Yankee third-baseman Alex Rodriguez along with 12 other players were suspended by the MLB for 211 games on Tuesday. Rodriguez continues to deny any wrongdoing.

### Woman in the NFL

40-year-old Sarah Thomas made history on Thursday by becoming the first woman to referee a game in the NFL. The accomplishment came when Thomas officiated a San Diego Chargers preseason home-game.



### Terrence Jones Charged

Former Jefferson High School basketball star and current Houston Rockets player was arrested around 2 a.m. on Wednesday. Police are accusing Jones of yelling at a homeless man and then stomping on his leg. Jones was charged with harassment on Tuesday and plead 'not guilty'.



### Mars rover, 'Curiosity'

### One Year on Mars

NASA's rover named 'Curiosity' has been on the planet Mars for one year as on August 5. The rover is currently in space collecting

data about the red-planet in hopes of giving scientists a better understanding of it.

### Fatal Fall at Green Peter

19-year-old Michael Stab of Silverton, OR fell into the Green Peter Reservoir on Friday killing the man. Stab's body was recovered by rescue divers on Saturday morning around 1 a.m.

### Infernos Rage On

Over 40,000 acres have been scorched by wildfires in Oregon this summer. Nearly 4,500 firefighters continue to combat the flames across the state. Gov. John Kitzhaber has declared 2013 as touted this as the worst fire season in a decade.

### Armed 14-Year-Old Killed

A police officer in New York fatally shot a 14-year-old boy after the boy refused to drop his pistol on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Shaaliver Douse; it is being reported that he died of a single gunshot to the jaw.

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