



Oregon Capital Bureau Photo/Claire Withycombe
Rep. Karin Power, D-Milwaukie, carries House Bill 2020 on the floor Monday night. The cap-and-trade legislation passed the House 36-24 and now moves to the Senate where the vote margin will likely be slimmer, but it's expected to pass nonetheless.

Environment: Cap and trade passes the House

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frustrating that the other side can't see why this policy is either imperative or disastrous.

She's right in pointing out how deeply partisan the issue is. Democrats first introduced carbon pricing legislation in 2007, yet in 2019 they did not secure a single Republican vote despite 20 committee hearings, many of which stretched well into the evening.

Wallan's words underscored the entire 6-1/2 hour floor debate, as Democrats and Republicans took turns giving lengthy speeches, all of which had been brought up in hearings and testimony before.

Through the hours, the once-packed gallery saw about half its seats empty as Republicans worked to draw the debate into the evening, enhanced by parliamentary tricks.

Republicans made five motions to send the bill to

various policy committees.

All failed despite creative arguments on why the bill should go to committees that have already adjourned for the session and deal with other issues.

Rep. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, appealed a ruling by Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, finding the bill is not a tax, and therefore need a three-fifths majority.

House Republican Leader Carl Wilson, R-Roseburg, made a motion to suspend the bill indefinitely. None of the motions had a chance of passing, but they did allow for points to be made on the record and for Republicans to hold off a vote for a couple more hours.

However, in the end some Democrats did stray.

Rep. Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie, said HB 2020 "suffers greatly" and is not the answer to climate change.

Rep. Caddy McKeown, D-Coos Bay, also spoke out against it, saying this isn't the fix to climate change.

It was always known some House Democrats might break away from the pack on this vote, in part because they face rural constituencies that could be more impacted by the bill.

While the bill is deeply partisan, both sides spoke about how they strongly believe their point of view is right for Oregon. Republicans want to protect businesses in their district, while Democrats talked about saving our climate so future generations can live a life that resembles current day.

"I love this state, and I love being an Oregonian," Power said. "It is for these reasons I believe we need to act and be a beacon of hope for the rest of the country."

The bill now moves to the Senate where it will get a hearing later this week, where it's unclear is how Republicans will protest the bill. Previously, they staged a walkout over a business tax bill.

Missing: Searchers recover pair missing

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completion of an associate's degree.

Holcomb said the sheriff's office did not have much information about Williams but was able to get notices to relatives of the missing about the situation.

Information about what happened remained sketchy.

The driver of the boat, Richard Kirkendall, 41, of Hermiston, reported Arsenault and Williams had been riding on the dive step of the boat while he was driving to shore, according to the sheriff's office. Kirkendall noticed they were missing when he arrived on shore. Rowan said it appears the two adults lacked life jackets.

The size of the effort scaled down after the initial frenzy of the search, Holcomb explained, but the work remains methodical.

Airplanes conducted an aerial search along the shallow



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Umatilla County Sheriff's department patrol boat pulls a sonar array in tow while searching for two missing boaters Monday in the Columbia River.

shores where boats could not gain access. Umatilla County Fire District members and volunteers searched along the shoreline. Teams reported the water was "pretty murky," according to Holcomb. She also said the Columbia Basin Dive Rescue of Richland, Washington, provided a towable side-scan sonar to help search the bottom of the river.

The sensitive equipment provides valuable information, she said, and dive teams will investigate objects of interest that show up on the sonar.

Holcomb said the team found Williams' body at 8 p.m. and Arsenault's body shortly before 8:30, both in the area of Bobby's Beach. The remains Monday night were en route to a funeral home.

Pacific Power: Oregon utility announces wildfire prevention policies

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following the Camp Fire, which burned the mountain community to the ground in the fall of 2018. At the time, the utility company reported malfunctioning stations and downed lines.

Previous California wildfires were also linked to PG&E, including the Wine Country fires of 2017. CalFire found the utility company had failed to maintain power lines or properly remove potentially flammable brush from the nearby area, which is required by California law. There is no such law in Oregon.

Following the lawsuits, PG&E recently started implementing power shut-off during high-wind, high-heat

periods. On June 10 they proactively cut power to over 20,000 residents in California's Butte and Yuba counties.

Bolton said that Pacific Power's new policy is not directly in response to the lawsuits against PG&E or the actions they've taken, but are instead in keeping with best practices that the industry has been discussing for a while. But the recent increase in fires prompted them to act now.

"Some of the tragedies we've experienced, like the loss of the city of Paradise and other fires we've seen down in California, demonstrate that we need to take active measures to protect communities and Oregonians who could be in harm's way," Bolton said.

Pacific Power serves 587,365 Oregon customer in pockets across the state, including part of Portland, the Willamette Valley, the coast, and parts of Central, Southern and Eastern Oregon, including Umatilla County. It also serves a portion of Northern California, Central Washington, and parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Utah.

Bolton said it's unlikely Pacific Power will ever need to de-electrify their power lines, and if it does, it would likely only be in high-risk areas like Josephine, Douglas and Hood River counties. The company is working with local emergency management groups to do outreach on the subject, and to figure out how to warn residents if a shutoff seems likely.

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