

Gov. Brown signs executive order on climate change

Order directs DEQ to cap emissions on three largest sources and doubles state's clean fuels program

By Jake Thomas
Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown signed a sweeping executive order on Tuesday that directs state government to significantly cut greenhouse emissions in Oregon.

The governor's move is in response to the Legislature adjourning for the second time on Sunday without having passed a bill with similar goals.

Flanked by students at the Capitol, Brown said the order would put the state on a path its children could be proud of and was needed urgently to address climate change.

"We are all in this together, and if we can make progress on climate change, we just might have a world we can pass onto our children," said Brown.

The order updates and

adds more teeth to the state's existing greenhouse gas reduction goals. It sets a 45% reduction from 1990 levels by 2035 and an 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.

The order directs the Department of Environmental Quality to put caps on emissions from the state's three largest sources including transportation fuels, natural gas and large industrial polluters. It also doubles the state's clean fuels program, requires higher efficiency for buildings and appliances while requiring all state agencies to view their actions through a climate change lens.

The order also outlines a variety of means to reach the new goals.

On Monday, the legislative Emergency Board voted to direct \$5 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality to begin drafting rules aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

A statewide program to cap greenhouse gas emissions has been a priority for Democrats who control the governor's office and lopsided majorities in the Legislature. But previ-



EO Media Group/Claire Withycombe

Gov. Kate Brown addresses the media Feb. 24.

ous attempts were stymied after legislative Republicans walked out of the Capitol in the last two sessions, denying lawmakers a quorum to conduct business.

The most recent walk-out occurred during the most recent legislative session that ended on Sunday.

Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr. has questioned the governor's move, saying it would open the state to an expensive lawsuit.

"The governor is ignoring Oregonians," he said in a statement Tuesday. "She is not listening to three quarters of the state or the 28 counties that signed proclamations against the cap and trade concept. It's obvious Kate Brown is not Oregon's governor, she is Portland's governor, and as she prom-

ised, she is serving revenge, cold and slowly."

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan called Brown's order "a flawed vision of leadership that exposes our state to litigation."

"This is not only an abuse of power, it shows how out of touch the governor is with the pressing needs of families and communities across the state," she said in a statement Tuesday. "Oregon struggles to protect foster kids, improve graduation rates and address homelessness, but rather than acknowledge the need for greater leadership in these essential areas the governor misdirects time and attention away from core functions and our shared priorities to double down on climate at any cost."

On Tuesday, Brown said that her order had been carefully vetted to ensure it was in compliance with state law and constitution.

The allocation would be used to hire 10 new positions. During Monday's Emergency Board meeting, Richard Whitman, director of the Department of Environmental Quality, said that the new hires would help complete initial rulemaking for a greenhouse gas reduction program by 2022. That's roughly the same timeline laid out in the bill killed last session to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

After a similar bill failed to pass during last year's legislative session, a coalition of businesses environmental groups and others called Renew Oregon began preparing a greenhouse gas reduction initiative for the 2020 ballot.

Renew Oregon applauded Brown's move in a statement following her announcement.

"Oregonians have organized, advocated, worked and voted for years demanding our state take bold action to reduce climate pollution, improve our health, and transition to clean energy.

Governor Brown delivered today with strong and comprehensive action," said Tera Hurst, executive director of Renew Oregon, in a statement. "This action will hold large corporate polluters accountable for the pollution they create. We all have a responsibility to do our part and most of us do, now it's time for large polluters to start doing theirs."

Brad Reed, spokesman for Renew Oregon, said that his group is currently considering whether to move forward with its ballot initiatives or withdraw them. He said that it will consider if the ballot initiatives overlap with the governor's order and if they accomplish the same goals.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat, applauded Brown "for protecting our planet and our children's future."

"Her order puts Oregon on a path to reduce our greenhouse gas pollution according to strong, science-based targets," she said in a statement Tuesday. "I will be reviewing the executive order to see whether we need to take additional climate action in our upcoming special session."

Lawmakers allocate \$24.2M in emergency spending

Flood relief, COVID-19 response top emergency spending following stalemate in legislature

By Sam Stites
Oregon Capital Bureau

Following a feeble end to Oregon's 2020 Legislative Session, members of the legislative emergency board convened Monday morning to allocate funding for emergencies throughout the state.

With Republicans away from the Capitol in a boycott over a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lawmakers were unable to pass critical spending bills to address situ-

ations dealing with the flooding in the Umatilla Basin, as well as the state's response to the continued outbreak of COVID-19.

The legislative Emergency Board — which has about \$75 million at its discretion — approved emergency allocations Monday, including \$11.5 million for flood relief in the Pendleton area, \$5 million for COVID-19 efforts and \$2.7 million for the Office of Emergency Management to implement new preparedness programs.

They acted a day after the 2020 Legislature adjourned automatically. The absence of Republican legislators in the days before the adjournment prevented any votes on funding needs or other legislation.

But at Monday's Emer-

gency Board meeting, all seven Republicans were present and engaged.

The \$11.5 million for flood relief includes \$2 million for new affordable housing units for Umatilla County flood victims and \$1.5 million for rapid rehousing and rental assistance to flood victims. Another \$4 million would be used for replacing damaged housing and infrastructure.

The Oregon Business Development Department will receive \$3.2 million for business cleanup and to help Pendleton repair its levee.

The committee approved the COVID-19 funding without specifying how it would be used.

Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, pointed out that Washington state had requested an estimated \$100 million to bolster its response to the virus. He also said he spoke with several county health officials in his vast district covering much of Eastern Oregon, and they asked him whether there would be any assistance for them.

"They're on the front lines, and they need some help," Findley said.

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward said that one advantage of Gov. Kate Brown's emergency declaration over the weekend was that it allows the state to mobilize emergency physician corps, particularly in rural counties, who are able to help local health departments.

"I've had extensive conversations with the Health Authority over the weekend, and the reason we're able to un-schedule some of this money for the moment is that they do feel comfortable with the amount," Steiner Hayward said. "And we do have the

ability to move funds around administratively through executive order, and we do have the ability to call the Emergency Board back at any moment should this prove to be insufficient."

Senate President Peter Courtney added that the Emergency Board could definitely be back again to allocate more money.

"We simply don't know," he said. "This thing is very dynamic, and we may be back for more."

The Emergency Board also approved by 12-8 vote — with all Democrats except Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, voting yes — to give \$5 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality to establish 10 new positions to start drafting rules to implement the expected executive order by Gov. Kate Brown aimed at reducing Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions.

Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr. said he opposed the allocation because he feels the move by the governor opens up the state to more costly lawsuits such as the \$1.06 billion 13 counties won against the state for losses associated with timber harvests.

"Where I'm probably most concerned is not so much with the issue, but the process," Baertschiger said. "I think it's going to initiate lawsuits right from the beginning. Given the lack of success with the last lawsuit the governor just lost, which is costing the taxpayer \$262,000 in interest every single day, I would think we'd want to try to do anything to not get us in another lawsuit."

Other Republicans didn't see the emergency requiring the immediate funding.

GOP, Dems blame each other for unproductive session

By Claire Withycombe, Jake Thomas and Sam Stites
Oregon Capital Bureau

In an extraordinary move, Democratic legislators on Thursday effectively ended the contentious and gridlocked 2020 Legislature, killing key legislation and taking with it the hotly debated climate change legislation that Republicans fought.

Republicans in the House and Senate boycotted the legislature for more than a week to avoid voting on a proposal meant to cut the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

Their absence meant the House and Senate didn't have the legal quorum to transact business, which stopped action on legislation.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and his counterpart in the House, Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, each announced the session's end on the floor of their respective chambers. No one could recall a legislative session ending with virtually nothing approved. Kotek, typically cool even when prodded by reporters, was visibly angry as she spoke from the dais.

"We have been held hostage by a small group of elected representatives," Kotek said. "We have been open to compromise and negotiation from the beginning, but unfortunately, their actions turn this into a hostage situation, not a negotiation. When the only thing you want to make a deal on is the one thing the majority won't give you, you are not negotiating, you're blackmailing."

Republicans had offered to come back on Sunday, with hours remaining in the session, to pass budget bills. That was met with exco-riation from Kotek, who said they behaved like a team walking off the second half of a basketball game and offering to return in the last minute on the condition they could determine the final score.

After she concluded her potent speech, state rep-

resentatives attending the final gathering of the session erupted into applause.

Courtney, never one to hide his feelings, was characteristically blunt.

"This is a failed short session," said Courtney. "I cannot believe that. It's a failed short session because 11 elected officials who are state senators would not come do their job."

Courtney's remarks were part eulogy for what he views as the damaged institution of the Oregon Legislature.

Now, Oregonians from one side of the state to the other won't receive money that would have been appropriated from the Legislature.

There will be no \$120 million to provide more shelter and affordable housing for the 10,000 Oregonians struggling with homelessness, no \$78 million to cover costs at the troubled state forestry department and start new projects to mitigate wildfire. There will be no \$50 million for local parole and probation offices, centers for abused kids or additional judges for Deschutes and Douglas counties.

Republicans agreed some of the spending was vital.

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan in a video posted to Twitter noted that Courtney and Kotek identified spending that was "most critical to pass" and that Republicans reviewed that list.

"We agree," Drazan said in the video.

Courtney and Kotek say they want a special session to get critical legislation done. Courtney said that wouldn't happen for at least 30 days, and if it does, legislators have \$1 billion in general fund dollars to make the adjustments they weren't able to complete during this session.

With the Legislature now functionally over, lawmakers have a modest pot of money to use for the state's most urgent needs — approximately \$75 million in an emergency reserve fund.

The Emergency Board, a panel of legislators empowered to distribute money when the Legislature isn't in session, will distribute that money. Kotek and Courtney said they would convene the board Monday, March 9. That's how lawmakers plan to allocate \$12 million to help victims of recent flooding in the Umatilla Basin.

Under Oregon law, the legislature can call itself into special session when a majority of members in each chamber "has cause to believe an emergency exists."

Brown said she was open to summoning legislators back to town but only if leaders brought her "a plan for a functioning session."

Curriculum/Student Success Act Specialist

The Grant County Education Service District is looking for a Curriculum/Student Success Act Specialist. The curriculum specialist works with the education industry in Grant County from pre-K to post-graduate institutions. The Grant County ESD Curriculum/SSA Specialist works with staff and administrators of component districts as well as the ESD to coordinate activities related to instructional leadership and the Student Success Act.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Works with district personnel in a consultative and supportive manner in a variety of curriculum and instructional and staff development areas including but not limited to:
 - » Aligning curriculum to state standards
 - » Continuous improvement planning
 - » Coordination of state and district assessments
 - » Implementing and evaluating instructional strategies
 - » Adopting instructional materials
 - » Assisting with SSA application and plan monitoring
- Writes well and synthesizes the writing of others into meaningful materials and documents to support district curricular, school improvement planning needs and for the purposes of developing Grant County ESD grant proposals.
- Assists with identifying and locating grant opportunities for Grant County ESD and local district and then works collaboratively to develop and implement grant proposals and their identified activities.
- Prepares and submits reports on progress towards meeting, grant and project activities as requested.
- Attends meetings as requested.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Demonstrated leadership and project organizational skills, with the ability to plan for, meet deadlines, and coordinate multiple projects as the same time.
- Strong interpersonal skills to allow specialist to work effectively with a wide range of teachers, principals, and superintendents.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to be flexible, fluid and comfortable with ad hoc committee work and a diverse student, teacher and administrative community.

Education and Experience:

- Master's Degree preferred with coursework or equivalent training in education.
- Valid Oregon teaching license.
- Experience and/or knowledge in the necessary foundation skills of:
 - » developmentally appropriate practices;
 - » needs of special populations;
 - » curriculum development/alignment, instructional and assessment strategies.
- At least two years of successful experience classroom teaching in appropriate grades.
- Staff development experience in curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Benefits:

- Medical, Dental and Vision coverage available
- PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) eligible position
- Holidays – 10
- 220 day assignment
- Salary Range - DOE

How to Apply:

Applications may be obtained at the Oregon Employment Department, the Grant County ESD Office, or online at <http://www.granted.k12.or.us/documents/Grant-ESD-Employment-Application.pdf>.

Applications and resumes must be returned to the ESD Office at:

Grant County Education Service District
835 S. Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845

Grant County provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. 517756-1

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The true-life story of Christian music star Jeremy Camp and his journey of love and loss that looks to prove there is always hope.
FRIDAY (4:00) 7:00
SAT & SUN (1:00) (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

ONWARD (PG)
Disney Pixar. Two teenage elf brothers embark on a quest to discover if there is still magic out there.
FRIDAY (4:20) 7:20
SAT & SUN (1:20) (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20

THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG)
Starring Harrison Ford. A sled dog struggles for survival in the wilds of the Yukon.
FRIDAY (4:10) 7:10
SAT & SUN (1:10) (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth