

**From:** Representative Greg Barreto rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov  
**Subject:** This has already been an interesting year in the legislature.  
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## *Rep. Greg Barreto's Newsletter*

March 8, 2019 Newsletter



***Dear Friends,***

This has already been an interesting year in the legislature. In the first two weeks, rent control SB 608 got rammed through the Senate with no opportunity for amendments. It happened in such a fashion that Senator Fred Girod walked out of the committee and asked Senate President Peter Courtney to take him off the committee if that is how the committee was going to be run. The bill then landed in the House, was voted out of that committee last week, and passed on the House floor on a partisan vote. The Governor signed the bill on February 28th and the law is now in effect. The [Oregon Association of Realtors](#) have more information on what this means.

In the 4th week we were presented with a healthcare bill called the Provider Tax that charges hospitals a tax that will be reimbursed by the federal government through Medicaid. But, it also charges an additional 2% tax on employer-provided health insurance policies. Currently, small businesses face

the rising cost of healthcare for employees, but under this bill they are also going to be charged an additional 2% state tax, once again [raising the cost](#) of doing business in Oregon.

Two weeks ago we also experienced the removal of Chair of the Health Committee, Rep. Mitch Greenlick, being relieved from his position because of the way he treated a couple of Republican legislators on the committee, as well as for his rude and impugning behavior toward two lobbyists who were testifying on the stand. He was called out by freshman legislator, Christine Drazan, who pointed out that legislators had just received training against that type of behavior, and it was beneath the level of the office we hold. In the same evening, the speaker also removed Rep. Bill Post from Judiciary Committee because of what she believed to be inappropriate tweets. So ended week five in the 2019 Legislative session.

There are pressures on the majority party leadership in both the House and the Senate. Lawsuits exist against the Speaker of the House and the Senate President for brushing aside sexual assault claims and not addressing concerns in the serious manner the plaintiffs felt was deserved.

Last week started the roadshow for [HB 2020](#) which is known as the [Carbon Tax](#) or [Cap and Trade](#). The committee met in Springfield Friday evening for a hearing and met in Medford on Saturday. On Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, they had video conferencing at both Baker City and Newport. This week they end the roadshow in The Dalles and Bend.

The cap and trade system that the state legislature is considering will affect everyone in the state regarding [energy costs](#). Every worker, every family, and every job creator will be affected. As written, it will immediately raise gas prices 16 cents per gallon and is estimated to raise natural gas prices 11 to 15% for domestic use and even more for industrial users. Electricity costs will go up and the overall energy increases will raise the cost of living for every Oregonian.

In the Economic Development Committee the other day, one of the sponsors of the bill made the statement that we will “decarbonize” Oregon, which could be translated to “deindustrialize” Oregon, or simply cap prosperity in Oregon. Even if Oregon eliminated all carbon produced, it would be only **.14 of 1%** of all carbon produced. This bill will also create a powerful non-elected bureaucracy that will serve at the pleasure of the executive branch to create rules governing Oregon’s carbon emissions. HB 2020 will do little to curb the production of carbon but will bring upwards of \$600 million to a billion dollars to the government.

Amendments as well as other solutions are on the table for consideration. Write emails, letters, or call your [State Representatives](#) and [Senators](#) and

voice your opinion on how this will affect you, your family, your community and your state. Everyone will be affected with increased costs. Please be active and vocal, **it does make a difference.**

Thank you,



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### ***Wallowa & Union County Weekly Legislative Update Schedule Set for 2019 Session***

Senator Bill Hansell (District 29) and Representative Greg Barreto (District 58) have partnered with the Wallowa Co. Chamber of Commerce, Union Co. Farm Bureau and OSU Extension Service to provide local constituents with weekly updates during the 2019 legislative session via live video-conference connection to the Oregon State Capital. The video conference series provides a timely opportunity to interact with our elected officials regarding proposed legislation of interest to you.

Interested parties may participate in the sessions by attending in person either at the OSU Extension Service office in Wallowa County (668 NW 1st, Enterprise, OR, 97828) or at the OSU Extension Service office in Union County (10507 N McAllister Rd, La Grande, OR 97850). Each session starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 7:45 – 8:00 a.m. on the following dates:

February 12  
February 26  
March 12  
March 26  
April 9  
April 23  
May 14  
May 28  
June 11  
June 25

Please contact Debi Warnock (541-426-3143) in Wallowa County or Darrin Walenta (541-963-1010) in Union County with questions regarding the video conferences or with requests for additional information.

## Representative Barreto's Committee Assignments for the 2019 Session

Natural Resources Committee  
Business and Labor Committee  
Economic Development Committee

### OLIS

#### **Oregon Legislative Information System**

OLIS is a new, web-based system that the Legislature uses to make information more accessible.

#### [OLIS User Manual](#)

The manual has been placed on Representative Barreto's Oregon State Legislature website, under the Helpful Tools tab.

#### [Representative Greg Barreto Oregon State Legislature web site](#)

#### **Tips on how to use-**

Go to [Oregon State Legislature web site](#) then select OLIS to get started.

Make sure the correct session is being viewed. Once on OLIS, in the top right corner of page, you will see four buttons. Select Session and click the year you need.

## **Contacting the Salem Office**

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