



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

*Rely on us.*

TO: Commissioners Carlson, Mital, Helgeson, Schlossberg and Brown  
FROM: Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Government Affairs Program Manager  
DATE: February 21, 2020  
SUBJECT: 2020 State Legislative Session Update  
OBJECTIVE: Information

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## Issue

The 2020 State Legislative Session convened February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will adjourn by March 7<sup>th</sup>. This memo is to apprise the Board of the current status in the legislative process of issues key to EWEB's adopted 2020 legislative agenda.

## Background

Prior to the start of each legislative session, the Board adopts general policy directives for advocacy at the Capitol, which guide the work of EWEB's lobbying activities. When political considerations test the applicability of those directives, the General Manager makes a determination as to whether a fundamental shift in direction is required. The Board may be asked to reaffirm its policy or direct staff to make necessary adjustments.

## Discussion

The following is a summary of legislative issues already identified in EWEB's 2020 State Legislative Agenda:

### SB 1530 – State Carbon Cap and Trade Legislation – SUPPORT – PENDING

SB 1530 was approved out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 14<sup>th</sup> after several public hearings and referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. The bill had a public hearing and was approved out of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources on February 19<sup>th</sup> and the bill has been scheduled for a work session at the full committee on February 24<sup>th</sup>. SB 1530 is believed to have the necessary votes for passage in both the House and Senate on simple majority votes, however, it is probably that the Senate Republicans may leave the Capitol to prevent the necessary quorum for a final vote on SB 1530. HB 4167, nearly identical to SB 1530, has been introduced in the House as an alternative legislative vehicle should it be deemed necessary to approve carbon pricing legislation in that chamber first.

SB 1536 – Omnibus Wildfire Response Bill – SUPPORT – PENDING

SB 1536 was approved out of the Senate Wildfire Reduction and Recovery Committee and was referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Components of SB 1536 were amended into omnibus legislation, HB 4066. These components establish a requirement that consumer owned utilities submit risk-based Wildfire Mitigation Plans by the end of 2021 and directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission to complete statewide workshops throughout 2020 to identify best wildfire mitigation practices for the utility sector.

HB 4135 – Utility Investment in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – NEUTRAL – PENDING

This legislation was amended to eliminate any mandates that would set a floor of required utility investment at 1 percent of retail revenues. Instead the amended bill issued a directive on the use of revenues from the sale of credits generated in the Oregon Clean Fuels Program. HB 4135 did not advance out of committee, however, the components of HB 4135 were incorporated into an omnibus bill, HB 4066, which was approved by the House of Representatives on February 20<sup>th</sup> and awaits action by the Senate.

HB 4043 – Preemption of Local Authority on Water Pipe Materials – OPPOSE – FAILED

A public hearing was held for HB 4043 on February 11<sup>th</sup>. No further action was taken and the bill is procedurally eliminated from further consideration.

**Recommendation/Requested Board Action**

No action is recommended. This memo is an informational update on issues already part of EWEB's 2020 State Legislative Agenda.