

The world is changing again:

On the brink of a March 11th mask mandate reversal, the world changed before we could take a breath. Long gone are the days where you cast your worries aside during the weekends. We must stay engaged day in and day out to keep pace with the transformations taking shape in and around the world. These are the times when our daily management of our businesses makes the difference.

Oregon just finished our Legislative Short Session (February 1st- March 7th, 2022) and it did not fail to disappoint, with OFA leading the way to a Choice at the Pump bill (HB4151) that garnered bipartisan support from urban Portland to every corner of the State. Leadership failed to act... No surprise, but boy did we put forth the best effort we have in a long time. I guess the old saying is true, *“Oregon is a special kind of place!”*

Many thanks to those that donated to the cause. I don't think our efforts were wasted, just delayed with some additional revelations revealed. The Fire Marshal's office is the scapegoat from this writer's perspective. While in discussions months prior to the bill release, not a word was spoken about financial support. But now we know what will be necessary in 2023! Also, thanks to the many people and companies that interviewed and spoke with reporters advocating our position. It's never easy to get in front of a camera, but the membership does well with these areas.

Folks, if you have read my articles or been to an OFA event, you know that I advocate for us to step up our efforts. Research and play the game in a defensive and offensive manner. Play to Win! And to do that well, we must get involved and be engaged with what is occurring around us. Reach out across the line (sometimes even a State one!) and get Activated with a voice, a mindset, and a desire to see real change come about for all our fellow Oregonians. It's not hard, just takes a little time and energy!

Beyond the HB4151, we were battling diesel bans (HB4141) that got kicked down the road with additional research requirements (and somehow, they found funds for that ...). A seismic upgrade to refineries (SB1567) in preparation for the Big One (passed while keeping

95% of OFA members exempt!). Cash reigns king in the State with requirements to accept (SB1565) (but secured a common sense carve out of stations with only one attendant and protection for our card lock members' businesses). Oregon's own Governor pushed to cancel the attempts by Washington State to charge 6cpg on exported fuel (SB5974) (even she surprises us from time to time!). There were all kinds of other bills introduced and yet never left the floor.

You see, Oregon Fuels Association is working with you and on your behalf to ensure we are good stewards with the membership moneys and dues we charge. My door is always open, to lend an ear to your issues and task some Board Members with forming a committee to get results. While we step up our game, we ask you to step into the support arena with dollars. After all, this world is only getting more expensive.



Tracey Anderson, OFA Executive Director is pushing through her first year with us and getting deep into the OFA event planning for this year's Conference on July 17-19, 2022 at the Sunriver Resort. We are excited for the Speakers, the Dinner Hosts, Conference Sponsors, and to see you. Sign up early and reserve

your accommodations as soon as you see registration open. Bring the family this year as we make space for young and not so young members! If last year was any indication of support, we are going to be a well-attended event with rooms, sponsorship, and drinks going fast. Please don't miss this opportunity to come together with Industry peers and converse about where we are headed in the near and far future.

Drive often-

Gabriel Zirkle, President OFA



Gabriel Zirkle
OFA President

