

We've reached the part of the session in which leaders of various committees that impact state spending are whispering to each other behind closed doors and in the back of chambers to negotiate a series of deals that will allow all interests to go back to their districts feeling proud of their service. It's also the part of the process that has been euphemistically described as making sausage. "I'll trade you my help on the school improvement fund for your support on my transportation issue," etc. But the quiet in the halls is reminiscent of that quiet mid-westerners hear just before the freight train sound starts and the trailer park gets scattered through the county. We believe that things are going to start flying out of committees and out of the chambers next week at a speed that will have us all dazzled. There is a real commitment on the part of legislative leadership to end the session in June and, since June starts next Friday, things are about to get a bit crazed.

The Ways and Means subcommittee on Education moved the budgets for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and K-12 out of their sub this week and to the full committee for action. The community college budgets are set to move June 4-8. While we are hearing that the House and Senate are close to an agreement on our operating budget, there is still some distance between them on our capital budget. We will be working hard in the next couple of weeks to ensure that the final figures include both our request for the support fund and all fifteen capital projects. The capital issue got a little extra attention this week when the Oregon Department of Geology released its preliminary report on the seismic needs of public buildings. You can view that report at <http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/projects/rvs/default.htm>. I will also attach a list of community college buildings that were listed as having very high collapse potential.

Hearings coming up next week include:

A. HB 2726 (State-funded research policy), Senate Business, Wednesday, May 30, 1 pm, HR B

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2726.a.pdf>

B. SB 342 (PERS - Nursing Exemption), House Business, Wednesday, May 30, 3 pm, HR D

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0300.dir/sb0342.a.pdf>

C. HB 2585 (PERS - CC Small District Exemption Amendment), Senate Commerce, May 30, 3 pm, HR B

OCCA offices will be closed Friday, May 25 and Monday, May 28.