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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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Brian J. Boquist

Oregon

State Senator, SD-012 (I)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

OR Legislative Scorecard 2024

✓ Pro-Freedom	✗ Anti-Freedom	— Did not Vote	Vote
1. Establishes a comprehensive framework to guide the development of offshore wind energy in the state.			✓
Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · HB4080 · 03/07/2024			
2. Creates a task force to explore expanding SNAP benefits.			✓
Estimated cost per household: -\$0.87/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · SB1585 · 03/04/2024			
3. Mandates that the State Treasurer and the Oregon Investment Council divest the state's Public Employees Retirement Fund from thermal coal companies.			✓
Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · HB4083 · 03/05/2024			
4. Funds a Summer Learning Grant program for K-12 students, providing \$30 million from the Corporate Activity Tax for summer 2024 programs focused on academic enrichment, mental health, and equitable access.			✓
Estimated cost per household: -\$18.00/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · HB4082 · 03/05/2024			
5. Expands election language support by increasing translated voter pamphlets from five to ten languages.			✓
Estimated cost per household: -\$0.20/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · SB1533 · 03/04/2024			
6. Redefines how the prevailing-wage rate for electrical workers is determined.			✓
Estimated cost per household: -\$1.30/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · SB1568 · 02/19/2024			

Scorecard Votes: 100%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Offshore Wind Energy

HB 4080 directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development to develop an Offshore Wind Roadmap with input from stakeholders. It mandates strong labor and supply chain standards, including apprenticeships, workforce diversity, and domestic materials. It prioritizes grid "reliability."

The Oregon State Senate passed HB4080 on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 17 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill advances the United Nations' Agenda 2030, threatening individual state and national sovereignty, freedom, and economic liberty under the guise of combating "climate change." HB4080 interferes with the free market and forces taxpayers to subsidize a globalist environmental agenda. Additionally, it prioritizes diversity initiatives and agenda over merit and experience.

2. SNAP Expansion

SB1585 establishes the Task Force on maximizing SNAP Benefits. This task force is charged with analyzing federal options to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits for hot foods, including restaurant meals.

The Oregon State Senate passed SB1585 on March 4, 2024 by a vote of 22 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because SNAP is an unconstitutional, socialist program that fosters government dependency and erodes personal responsibility. Additionally, SNAP selectively benefits certain groups, allowing the government to help some, but not others. Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution does not authorize social-welfare programs.

3. Green State Investments

HB4083 mandates that the State Treasurer and the Oregon Investment Council divest the state's Public Employees Retirement Fund from thermal coal companies. Investments may be retained if the companies are transitioning to clean energy.

The Oregon State Senate passed HB4083 on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 16 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because prioritizing political agendas over financial returns undermines the free market and threatens investments made by public employees. Divesting from thermal coal companies based on ideology, rather than sound economic principles, is a push to advance the green agenda, including initiatives such as the United Nations' Agenda 2030. Additionally, retirement funds should be handled by the private sector.

4. Summer Learning Grant Program

HB4082 funds a Summer Learning Grant program for K-12 students, providing \$30 million from the Corporate Activity Tax for summer 2024 programs focused on academic enrichment, mental health, and "equitable access."

The Oregon State Senate passed HB4082 on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 26 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because education is not a proper function of government, and taxpayers should not be forced to fund schooling and education programs for other people's children—especially through taxpayer-funded grants that allow the government to pick winners and losers. We encourage parents to seek sound alternatives to education, such as homeschooling or patriotic private institutions like *FreedomProject Academy*, which operate free from government influence and funding.

5. Election Languages

SB1533 would expand foreign-language support in election materials. The bill increases the number of the most commonly spoken languages in each county, other than English, that the Secretary of State must include on voters' pamphlets from five to ten.

The Oregon State Senate passed SB1533 on March 4, 2024 by a vote of 21 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the nays because promoting multilingualism at the expense of English proficiency undermines the unifying role of a common language. Our founding documents and historical texts are written in English, and effective governance relies on a shared language. If voters cannot understand who they are voting for, it raises serious concerns about the integrity and functioning of the election process and our elected officials.

6. Prevailing Wage

SB1568 ties prevailing-wage rates for electrical workers to local union jurisdictions, aligning wages with each union's collective bargaining agreement.

The Oregon State Senate passed SB1568 on February 19, 2024 by a vote of 26 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because mandating prevailing wages on government projects inflates costs for taxpayers and undermines free-market principles. By tying wages to union agreements, this bill effectively grants unions greater control over wage determination, limiting competition and disadvantaging non-union workers. Additionally, collective-bargaining mandates infringe upon individual liberties by forcing workers into predetermined wage structures rather than allowing them to negotiate freely based on merit and market demand. Wage rates should be determined by the free market, not government-imposed union agreements.