



Wednesday, September 17, 2025



How do we move past the Culture of No?

Last weekend, the Oregonian headline read, "Oregon mass layoffs approach Great Recession levels" with Oregon employers averaging 600 layoffs a month. And just last month the Oregon Employment Department reported that between July 2024 and July of 2025 Oregon lost approximately 25,000 nonfarm jobs. These numbers underscore the urgency for our region to create and activate a balanced growth approach.

Over the past few months WEA has been actively engaged in providing testimony and letters of support for projects across our region that aim to bring jobs to our region. From semiconductors to power storage - we continue to have bright lights of opportunity in this challenging economic climate.

Just last week we testified in support of a project that was seeking to expand their current site - within the urban growth boundary - on land zoned for industrial development - that will add about 600 permanent jobs to the economy after the 400-600 construction workers finish the build out. The governing body saw **over 500 letters of opposition citing fears of increased traffic and noise.**

In a region that tells us that any growth at the edges of the urban boundaries is bad, we are also being told that smart industrial infill is also bad. This is what I mean when I talk about 'the culture of no'.

What can we do? How do we move from a culture of "No" to a culture of "Now"?

In the coming weeks you will hear more from us about our Industrial Land Workgroup and the specific recommendations we will be bringing to Metro. We will continue to be a strong voice that advocates for smart urban growth AND well-planned industrial infill. And at our November State of the Westside, we will host a conversation about what businesses need to invest in our region.

At WEA, we reject the false choice between economic growth and environmental stewardship, between industrial development and community well-being. We believe our region is capable of doing hard things—and doing them well. Job creation isn't just the about employment statistics I shared above; it's about families planting roots, buying homes, enrolling their children in local schools, and supporting small businesses. But none of this happens by accident. It requires strategic, forward-thinking policies and bold leadership willing to champion a future where prosperity and livability go hand in hand. That's the narrative we're committed to changing—and the future we're working to build.

Let's do this work together.

Elizabeth

Westside News and Notes



PCC Fall 2025 CTE Alignment & Dual Credit Symposiums

Local WEA members are encouraged to join PCC faculty and teachers from across the region for PCC's upcoming symposiums, each focused on connecting industry with career and technical education

programs. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP for any session at: [Symposium RSVP Form](#).

Friday, October 3 – *Building, Moving, and Cultivating Resources*

Location: PCC Rock Creek Campus | *Time:* 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Industry Areas: Construction, Architecture, Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Automotive, Computer Science, Agriculture

Friday, October 17 – *Caring and Communities*

Location: PCC Cascade Campus | *Time:* 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Industry Areas: Bioscience/Biomedical, Dental, Health Sciences, Human Services, Early Childhood Education, Education

Friday, October 24 – Creating, Experiencing, and Investing in the Future

Location: PCC Rock Creek Campus | Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Industry Areas: Digital Arts, Fine Arts, Broadcast Journalism, Theater & Tech, Finance, Accounting, Business Management, Marketing

We appreciate your engagement in these important conversations and look forward to your participation.

Wilsonville Seeks Community Input on RV Parking, Abandoned Vehicle Policies

The City of Wilsonville is reviewing policies related to parked recreational vehicles (RVs) and abandoned vehicles on city streets, responding to community concerns about vehicles remaining in place for extended periods. The goal is to better understand the scope of the issue and assess whether current resources are sufficient to manage potential updates.



A key part of the project is clearly defining what qualifies as an RV, ensuring any future code changes are fair and enforceable. Community members are invited to complete a short questionnaire through **Friday, Oct. 10**. Feedback will help shape practical, long-term solutions.

For more information, contact **Amanda Guile-Hinman** at guile@wilsonvilleoregon.gov or 503-570-1507.



DLCD

Department of
Land Conservation
& Development

DLCD Seeks Input on 2025–27 Draft Policy Agenda

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is inviting public comment on its **2025–27 Draft Policy Agenda**, which outlines the agency's planned rulemakings and projects for the upcoming biennium. The agenda includes housing development standards, farm and forest modernization, coastal access rulemaking, and more.

Written comments will be accepted until **5 p.m. on September 30, 2025**. In addition, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) will take public testimony at its **September 26** hearing and consider adoption of the final Policy Agenda at its **October 23–24** meeting.

To review the Draft Policy Agenda, [click here](#).

If you have questions about the Draft 2025-27 Policy Agenda or would like to submit written comments, please contact:

- Alexis Hammer, J.D., Legislative and Policy Manager at alexis.hammer@dlcd.oregon.gov or 971-718-4545
- Aurora Dziadul, Legislative and Policy Analyst (Housing/Urbanization) at aurora.dziadul@dlcd.oregon.gov or 971-446-8834
- Alyssa Bonini, J.D., Legislative and Policy Analyst (Natural Resources) at alyssa.bonini@dlcd.oregon.gov or 971-458-3866

WEA encourages its members to review the draft agenda and share feedback to help shape Oregon's land use policies for the coming biennium.

State of the Westside | The State of Business in Oregon

Join us on Thursday, November 20 for the 2025 State of the Westside where we will talk with expert panelists about the state of business in Oregon, explore data findings and discuss what we can do to ensure we are recruiting and retaining business.

Stay Tuned for Registration and Speaker Details

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
20

2025 STATE OF THE WESTSIDE

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