



# ADVANCING WORLD-CLASS AMBITIONS

22ND ANNUAL OREGON LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
DECEMBER 9, 2024

Welcome to the 22nd annual Leadership Summit. This year's theme, *Advancing World-Class Ambitions*, highlights Oregon's global competitiveness in innovative products and services — from specialty foods to advanced manufacturing. It also emphasizes creating talent pathways for fulfilling careers in our advanced economy.

After the plenary session, please join the breakouts on Level 1 to explore how we can achieve these ambitions.

## Breakouts, Round 1

### **Industry Consortia: New Model for Talent Development**

*Hosted by: Dan Malinaric, Vice President of Fab 4 Operations, Microchip; Jennifer Purcell, Director, Future Ready Oregon; Brooke Brownlee, Senior Manager of Labor, Workforce, Community Engagement, PGE*

Oregon's growing industry consortia movement brings industry, education, workforce, and community-based organizations together to create new talent pathways. From semiconductors to healthcare, and clean technology to manufacturing, promising new models of collaboration are addressing industry needs while advancing historically underrepresented communities into promising careers. This session will take stock of Future Ready Oregon progress and outline next steps.

### **Securing Industrial Land**

*Hosted by: Curtis Robinhold, Executive Director, Port of Portland*

Creating opportunities to grow traded sector employment is essential to Oregon's economy and the vitality of communities across the state. Oregon faces a severe and persistent shortage of buildable industrial land and related infrastructure, which hinders economic competitiveness. This session will focus on changes on policy and investment needed to get us on track, the tools we have, and the opportunity cost of inaction.

### **Forest Health and Wildfires**

*Hosted by: Karla Chambers, Co-Owner and Vice President, Stahlbush Island Farms; Matt Donegan, Donegan Advisors and OBC Fellow*

Climate change is causing a surge in wildfires across the globe. Here across the West, this trend is greatly worsened by excess vegetation owing to historic land management practices. And nowhere is this more evident than our federal forests, which comprise 60% of Oregon's forestland. For decades the urgent need to "increase the pace and scale" of vegetative management has been well-known across the West, but little progress has been made. With potentially trillions of dollars at risk, including the costs of public health impacts, smoke, and carbon emissions, the time is now for a new public-private-partnership to address a public crisis affecting every Oregonian.

### **What Next, Portland?**

*Hosted by: Dan McMillan, President and CEO, The Standard; Nolan Lienhart, Principal and Director of Planning and Urban Design, ZGF Architects*

Portland is cleaner and safer than it was a year ago, and there are many signs of a comeback. This session will report on progress and quickly focus on the work yet to be done to revitalize Portland and restore it as one of the world's most admired cities.

### **Meeting Our Transportation Challenges**

*Hosted by: State Representative Susan McLain; State Senator Chris Gorsek*

ODOT is facing a severe budget crisis due to rising construction costs and a heavy reliance on the gas tax, which is decreasing as gas consumption falls. Without new funding and diverse revenue sources, Oregon's multimodal transportation system will face widespread, adverse consequences. Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain will share findings from their statewide convenings and will present their work on a 2025 Transportation Plan that aims to establish sustainable funding and improve system safety and functionality.

### **Building Capacity for Rural Economic Development**

*Hosted by: Dr. Gina Nikkel, Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties; State Representative Mark Owens*

Unprecedented federal, state, and philanthropic resources are available to support rural cities and counties. Even in this resource rich environment, rural communities often are unable to seize these opportunities because they lack the capacity to identify and seek out resources. This session will explore the potential for creating a Rural Community Resource Center to fill this need.

# 2024 BREAKOUTS

## Breakouts, Round 2

### Early Childhood and Child Care

*Hosted by Kali Thorne Ladd, CEO, Children's Institute; Dana Hepper, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Children's Institute*

Oregon faces a severe shortage of high-quality, affordable child care. A crisis that has not subsided since the pandemic. As a consequence, too many young Oregonians miss out on critical learning opportunities, and too many of their parents stay out of the labor force. This session will explore the sector's challenges and propose solutions for consideration by the 2025 legislature and beyond.

### Energy and Transmission Planning

*Hosted by Larry Bekkedahl, Vice President of Transmission & Distribution, PGE; Nicole Hughes, Executive Director, Renewable Northwest*

Oregon's electricity grid is on a path to transition to 100% clean energy sources by 2040 to serve as a backbone to power our industries, support job creation, and reduce energy costs for Oregon households and businesses. However, achieving Oregon's clean energy goals and maintaining system reliability will require addressing pressing barriers to accelerate the development of renewables and rapidly expanding transmission capacity to deliver that energy to end users. The Clean Technology Task Force recognized these challenges and, in this session, will describe what it will take to meet our ambitions.

### Managing Water for the Environment, the Economy and Communities

*Hosted by State Representatives Ken Helm and Mark Owens; Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor to Governor Kotek*

Oregon's water assets could be better managed to advance the wide variety of water needs for agriculture, communities, industry, and the ecology in every region in Oregon. In this session, key leaders will propose an agenda for the upcoming legislative session to address data management, permit streamlining, regional planning, and more.

### Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor

*Hosted by Tina Guldberg, Assistant Vice President Economic Development and Strategic Relations, University of Oregon; Rebecca Robinson, Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Industry Relations, Oregon State University*

With two leading research universities, strong K-12 schools and exceptional access to community and natural amenities, the Southern Willamette Valley is poised for significant economic growth. Recent investments in research and development by Phil & Penny Knight and Jen-Hsun Huang & Lori Mills Huang underscore the possibilities. This interactive session will describe the opportunity and solicit input on advancing this region as an innovation-driven economic powerhouse.

### Modernizing Oregon's Approach to Regulations

*Hosted by Angela Wilhelms, President and CEO, Oregon Business & Industry; Paloma Sparks, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Oregon Business & Industry*

Businesses, nonprofits, and local governments face increasing challenges with Oregon's growing volume of regulations - an average of 57 new regulations per month this year. Processes vary between agencies, and rulemaking information is often opaque and difficult to navigate. Modernizing Oregon's rulemaking system is essential to support legislative goals and a thriving economy. Join this breakout to explore OBI's proposals and share your ideas to shape solutions.

### The Housing Production Agenda

*Hosted by Matthew Tschabold, Housing and Homelessness Initiative Director for Governor Kotek*

Housing production has been a top priority for Governor Kotek since day one, and meeting her 36,000-unit-per-year building goal is critical to achieving the Business Plan's vision of shared prosperity. Oregon has enacted nation-leading housing legislation, and it now turns to the hard work of implementation—reforms and innovations in land use, permitting, building, infrastructure finance and more. Join this breakout for updates on progress and to share ideas on how to get more housing off the ground.

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