



SPEAK OUT!

Legislative Issues Affecting
Oak Ridge and our
Business Community



February 22, 2010

Welcome to Speak Out!

Welcome to our first issue of 2010 Speak Out!, the Oak Ridge Chamber's on-line political action newsletter. Produced in partnership with our allies at the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Speak Out! Is a great way for Oak Ridge Chamber members to keep up with what's happening in the Tennessee General Assembly. Watch for it weekly!

Prompt member availability of Speak Out! Is made possible by voluntary editing services provided to us by two members of the Oak Ridge Chamber's Political Action Task Force, Angi Agle and Kay Brookshire. We are grateful for their contribution.

Oak Ridge Chamber Day in Nashville

Watch *Speak Out!* And other Oak Ridge Chamber e-publications for details on our Oak Ridge Chamber Day in Nashville. The event has been postponed, so watch for a new date soon. It is a full day on the hill that features face to face meetings with key members of the legislature and cabinet-level officials. We hope you'll join us as we take our Oak Ridge Chamber message to Nashville.

Interested in attending? Please e-mail contact info to hardy@orcc.org.

Be Part of Political Action Task Force

Our Oak Ridge Chamber Political Action Task Force meets the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Chamber's Joyce Conference Room.

Next session is March 4. Please join us!

Senate Committee Action on Regulatory Boards

Regulation is certain for all businesses. Our allies at the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, through the years, have worked to ensure that businesses – as the regulated community – have a voice in the regulatory process. On the environmental regulatory side, that has included ensuring that members of the regulated community – with specific and technical expertise – are represented on these important regulatory boards.

In 2010, all state Environmental Regulatory Boards are on a routine Sunset schedule. The sunset process happens to every entity, no matter how large or small, in order for the legislature to provide appropriate review. The legislature must approve the continuation of these boards.

While the Solid Waste Disposal Control Board, Underground Storage Tank Board, Water Pollution Control Board, and the Ground Water Management Board passed the Senate without any amendments, the Air Pollution Control Board was caught up by some Senators wanting change the appointments to the bill. Currently, key stakeholder groups – including the Tennessee Chamber – have the responsibility to present nominees to the Governor for appointment to the board. Such a system ensure that broad interests are represented on the board and that the technical expertise to make key decisions is also available. SB 2949, as amended, by the Senate Government Operations Committee, would remove the existing seven (7) lists from various organizations, including two from the Chamber.

The Air Pollution Control Board (and not dissimilar from the other environmental regulatory boards) has very technical and scientific-based responsibilities for regulating emission sources to maintain delegation of the Air Pollution Control Program from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. It is absolutely critical that organizations like the Chamber have the opportunity to place members on this board with who are technically qualified and experienced. The nominees are responsible for regulations that can impact the economy and our environment. The technical regulations and enforcement must be based on the knowledge and real experience of what works inside the manufacturing facility or business to meet compliance requirement of permit holders.

It is important to note the current provisions of recommending names of qualified persons for appointment by the Governor has worked well for the past 20 to 30 years. This practice has existed without problems for the past four to six administrations. While the Senate Government Operations Committee members noted that in supporting the change the goal was to prohibit registered lobbyists and non-resident Tennesseans from serving on the boards, the fact is, there are no lobbyists currently serving on the environmental regulatory boards. The State Chamber remains committed to the current system, which ensures that the regulated community – and other stakeholders – are properly represented on the board with qualified individuals who have technical expertise.

Chairman Senator Bo Watson (R) Chattanooga heard our points and appropriately referred the bill from the Senate floor back to Calendar Committee, which will give the Tennessee Chamber and business partners an opportunity to work out a solution.

Tennessee Chamber's 98th Annual Meeting: Register Now

It is less than two weeks until the 98th Tennessee Chamber's Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception, Wednesday March 3 in Nashville! Are you registered?

Please join us for one of the premiere business meetings of the year when employers from across the state gather in Nashville to hear from elected officials and those who hope to be elected. The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Annual Meeting and Legislative Reception bring together those who provide jobs and fuel our economy with policymakers who create the business climate. It is a meeting for exchanging information and ideas, for building relationships and solutions.

Whether you are a CEO, plant manager, local Chamber executive, lobbyist or entrepreneur, if you are in business, then politics is your business! Gov. Bredesen has been invited to be the opening speaker at lunch. During the afternoon session, we will look at 2010 and what it means for you:

- *The State of Economy: What can we expect in 2010? Is the economy recovering? When will it reach Tennessee? Get the information to map your strategy for this year.*
- *The Future of the State: Tennessee will elect a new governor and it will define the future of the state. All major gubernatorial candidates have been invited to talk to you and to answer your questions. You will get the information to decide who should lead our state.*

- *The State of General Assembly: House and Senate legislative leaders will discuss this extremely challenging year. They will tell you how they intend to pass a balanced budget and manage state services. You will learn whether they will be seeking new sources of revenue and how you – as a business and an employer – might fare.*

The Annual meeting will close with a reception where you can meet and talk with key administration officials and elected officials. Mark your calendar today for March 3. We look forward to seeing you there. More information and registration can be found on the Chamber's [website](#) under Calendar.

House Legislative Activity for Week of Feb. 22, 2010

HOUSE ACTIVITY

CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF C&EA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – HHR 30 - 08:30 AM

HB 1612 by *Turner M (*SB 1119 by *Berke) - [Status](#)

As introduced, requires gift certificates with a monetary value of less than \$10.00 to be redeemable in cash for cash value.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – HHR 16 - 12:00 PM

***HB 3609 by *Fitzhugh (SB 3684 by *McNally) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, removes the exceptions to the requirement that when property has been assessed for property taxation in a county for at least five years, the state board of equalization may not rule that the property is located in a different county; and authorizes the board to redress double assessment in these circumstances.

STATE GOVERNMENT OF S&LG

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – HHR 30 – 2:00 PM

HB 3364 by *Gilmore (*SB 3112 by *Marrero B) - [Status](#)

As introduced, requires the solid waste disposal control board and department of environment and conservation to demonstrate specific compliance with Public Chapter 462 of 2007 before taking any action concerning solid waste regulation. (Public Chapter 462 requires that a municipal solid waste region's plan include provisions for managing solid waste generated as a result of natural disaster; provides for grants for landfills in certain cities and counties; revises other various solid waste-related provisions.)

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – HHR 16 – 3:30 PM

***HB 3331 by *Brooks H (SB 3601 by *Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, sets the incentive amount for biodiesel manufacturers paid from the biodiesel manufacturers' incentive fund for fiscal year 2010-2011 at \$0.40 per gallon.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF S&LG
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 31 – 8:30 AM

***HB 3695 by *Niceley (SB 3634 by *Burchett) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, prohibits county designated as nonattainment county from proposing planned growth areas that include certain agricultural property.

SMALL BUSINESS OF COMMERCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 30 – 9:15 AM

HB 3849 by *Yokley, Turner M (*SB 3860 by *Kyle, Stewart) - [Status](#)

As introduced, changes certain licensure requirements for motor vehicle sales, home inspectors, real estate brokers, and Class 4 and 5 liquid petroleum permit holders.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 29 – 10:00 AM

***HB 3457 by *Odom (SB 3734 by *Haynes) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, requires the commissioner to file an annual report detailing with specificity the status of each economic and community development grant that has been authorized by the general assembly together with his recommendations on whether each grant should be continued, increased, or no longer funded and whether new grants should be developed.

***HB 3169 by *Curtiss (SB 3135 by *McNally, Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, establishes an offset procedure for the state to recover debts owed to the state from a person who is entitled to a state tax refund.

***HB 3429 by *McDonald (SB 3469 by *Jackson) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Act," whereby certain procedures, processes, and fees are described for the recycling of such waste.

***HB 2856 by *Lynn (SB 2954 by *Watson, Crowe, Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, extends the solid waste disposal control board, June 30, 2012.

***HB 2857 by *Lynn (SB 2953 by *Watson, Crowe, Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, extends the petroleum underground storage tank board, June 30, 2012.

***HB 2861 by *Lynn (SB 2950 by *Watson, Crowe, Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, extends the board of ground water management, June 30, 2012.

***HB 2858 by *Lynn (SB 2952 by *Watson, Crowe) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, extends the water quality control board, June 30, 2012.

***HB 2862 by *Lynn (SB 2949 by *Watson, Crowe, Ketron) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, extends the air pollution control board, June 30, 2012.

**INDUSTRIAL IMPACT OF COMMERCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 30 - 10:00 AM**

***HB 2904 by *Lollar, Curtiss, Fincher (SB 2836 by *Southerland) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, decreases from five to three years the length of time a small employer must purchase coverage through a health group cooperative.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 16 – 11:00 AM**

Report from Director Ruth Woodall, TN Scholars
Presentation from Comptroller's Office – Community College Systems

**BUDGET OF FW&M
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 29 - 11:00 AM**

***HB 2825 by *Cobb T, Barker (SB 2830 by *Berke) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, changes the day on which the sales tax holiday begins from the first Friday of August to the third Friday of July.

***HB 2804 by *McDonald, Pitts (SB 2730 by *Berke) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, changes sales tax holiday from the first Friday in August through the following Sunday to the last Friday in July through the following Sunday.

***HB 3044 by *Cooper B, et al.(SB 3050 by *Ford, O.) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, revises definition of "project" in industrial development corporation statute and authorizes certain assistance, including certain revenues, in cases involving a central business improvement district and an industrial development corporation.

EMPLOYEE AFFAIRS OF C&EA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – HHR 29 - 12:30 PM

HB 3889 by *Harrison (*SB 2409 by *Faulk) - [Status](#)

As introduced, excludes periods of temporary total disability under the workers compensation law from calculation of base period for purposes of unemployment compensation.

***HB 3525** by *Maddox (SB 3336 by *Herron) - [Status](#)

As introduced, makes permanent the temporary suspension imposed by HB7/SB1 of the 2010 Extraordinary Session of the requirement that independent contractors in the construction industry obtain workers compensation insurance.

Senate Legislative Activity for Week of Feb. 22, 2010

SENATE ACTIVITY

JOINT GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

[RULES REVIEW](#)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010, 1:30 PM – LP 12

FINANCE, WAYS & MEANS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010, 8:30 AM - LP 12

Budget Presentations

Department of Revenue

Secretary of State

Department of Treasury

Comptroller of Treasury

ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION & TOURISM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010, 10:30 AM – LP 12

Budget Presentation

Department of Environment and Conservation

***SJR 0784** by *Burchett - [Status](#)

Requests reports from the department of environment and conservation relative to TVA

Emergency Preparedness and transition to Dry Coal Ash Storage.

COMMERCE, LABOR & AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010, 1:00 PM - LP 12

Budget Presentations

Department of Economic and Community Development
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Department of Commerce and Insurance

SB 3494 by *Beavers. (*HB 3629 by *Weaver.) - [Status](#)

As introduced, requires the department to develop a logo identifying non-agricultural goods produced in Tennessee; allows the department to grant permission to producers of such goods to use the logo

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010, 10:00 AM - LP 12

***SB 2547 by *Crowe, Ketron (HB 2682 by *Hill) - [Status](#)**

As introduced, enacts "Courthouse Square Revitalization and Tourism Development Zone Act."

SB 2760 by *Norris (*HB 2812 by *Odom, Todd, Cobb T) - [Status](#)

As introduced, revises filing deadlines for employer disclosure reports from within 45 days of March 31 and September 30 to within 45 days of June 30 and December 31.

Published in cooperation with the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Telephone: 615-256-5141 ◆ Fax: 615-256-6726 ◆ Web Site: www.tnchamber.org
© 2010. Compiled with assistance from Angi Agle for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Millennium Partners

Titanium



Platinum



Gold



Copper



TETRA TECH



Your most. Different.



THE COWPERWOOD COMPANY



Silver

Chuck's Car Care Center
 CDM Federal Programs
 NHC Oak Ridge
 Bacon Howard & Company
 Kramer Rayson, LLP
 Thermocopy

Proforma
 Blaine Construction Company
 Oak Ridge Gastroenterology Associates
 Endoscopy Center of Oak Ridge
 Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace
 Akins Crisp Public Strategies
 C&C Advertising

Herron Connell Insurance
 CH2MHILL
 Advanced Management, Inc.
 Oak Ridge Pediatric Clinic
 Avisco
 Shaw E & I

Bronze