

OREGON LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – November, 2015

By Jim Straub, ORHA Legislative Director

The Landlord Tenant Coalition steering committee has been meeting every other week in Portland to work on and provide input to legislators that introduced bills in the past legislative session that the coalition worked against solely because the legislators had not enlisted the comments and support of the Landlord Tenant Coalition in the first place. The coalition made agreements with two of the legislators to work on their bills in the interim. Those bills are a well water testing bill (which would require mandatory annual well water testing for all Oregon landlords with wells serving their rentals) sponsored by Representative Barton and Senator Gelsler, and an electric vehicle charging station bill sponsored by Representatives Barnhart, Nathanson and Reardon.

We have been devoting the most time and energy to the well water bill in order to collect information, attempt to understand the necessity that all wells be tested at this level on a yearly basis and analyze the financial impact this could have on both landlords and tenants (through the form of possible increased rent to cover the costs of the tests). These meetings are ongoing.

Regarding the electric vehicle charging, the burden of cost is placed solely and entirely upon tenants requesting the charging stations. We have a few questions and concerns about placement of charging stations and asking for a security deposit equal to the cost of removing the charging station at the end of tenancy, but these compromises seem very obtainable. As always, look for ongoing coverage in future Legislative Updates.