HB 2813 - Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure that communities in this state have access to safe drinking water. Directs authority to establish grant program to provide grants to water suppliers to protect, restore or enhance sources of drinking water. Requires Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to submit report on performance of grant program to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to water no later than April 1 of each even-numbered year. Establishes Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. This bill is in ways and means, seems likely to keep moving forward.

HB 2998 Creates Oregon Soil Health Initiative. Describes goals of initiative. Describes responsibilities of state agencies and other entities participating in initiative. Directs Institute for Natural Resources to convene Soil Health Advisory Committee. Directs institute, in consultation with other entities, to develop Soil Health Roadmap. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. This bill is in Ways and Means, recommended do pass with amendments.

HB 3125 Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. Directs Housing and Community Services Department to provide grants from moneys in fund to qualified organizations to distribute water and sewer bill payment assistance to low-income residential households. Recommended do pass and referred to ways and means.

HB 2988 Establishes Community Benefiting Water Infrastructure Investment Program. Directs Oregon Business Development Department to award grants under program to certain entities for purpose of planning or developing community benefiting water infrastructure project. Authorizes Director of Oregon Business Development Department to appoint Advisory Committee on Community Renewable Investment. Establishes Community Benefiting Water Infrastructure Investment Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for purposes of grants. Appropriates moneys to department for deposit in fund. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. This bill is in the Ag and natural resources committee, and no action has been taken on it. Might want to communicate with the sponsors and committee members if we want it to move forward. No actions indicated in OLIS.

SB 87 Instructs Oregon State University Extension Service to expand Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems through certain hiring. Directs Oregon Business Development Department to conduct market analysis of Oregon small-scale organic market. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. No action as yet on this bill, and none indicated in OLIS, communicate with the sponsors and committee members if we want it to move forward.

SB 455 Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish and administer grant program for aquifer recharge due diligence and forgivable loan program for aquifer recharge testing. Sunsets January 2, 2032. Declares emergency, effective on passage. Moved to ways and means.

SB 526 Directs State Department of Agriculture to establish program to support farmers who employ agricultural practices that lead to resilient farms. Has had no action, public hearing and possible work session scheduled for 4/3/2023. We can submit testimony in support on OLIS, and refer to Grange members for testimony in support if they want to see action.
SB 530 Establishes state policy regarding natural climate solutions. Establishes Natural and Working Lands Fund and provides for transfer of moneys from fund to certain state agencies. Prescribes uses of moneys from fund and requires Oregon Global Warming Commission to report to legislature on uses of moneys from fund. Directs State Department of Energy and commission to prepare baseline, activity-based metrics and community impact metrics for net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands and establish carbon sequestration and storage goals. Directs State Department of Energy, in coordination with commission, to study workforce training programs needed to support adoption of natural climate solutions and provide results to committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment no later than September 15, 2024. Authorizes commission to appoint natural and working lands advisory committee. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. This is probably one of the most important bills for water and fire, providing it passes and is implemented. We provided testimony at the public hearing, a work session is planned for 3/27/2023, and testimony will be accepted at this session via OLIS. We should submit again in support.

SB 553 Requires Department of Environmental Quality to study water reuse. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources not later than September 15, 2024. No action has been taken on this bill, in Senate committee for Natural Resources. We can contact committee members or bill sponsors if we want to see it move forward.