

State Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer)



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Rep Thatcher Celebrates Small Business Week

(Salem) April 10th -15th is National Small Business Week and State Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) is calling on Oregonians to support small businesses in their communities. "Small businesses are vital to Oregon's economic well being. These entrepreneurs deserve a lot of credit for their hard work and taking the risks necessary to provide jobs for Oregonians."

In his [proclamation for Small Business Week 2006](#), President Bush said, "small businesses have been a driving force behind America's tremendous economic growth and job creation...the opportunity to own a business is an important part of the American dream."

According to the Governor's Small Business Council, there are nearly 99,000 businesses in Oregon employing fewer than 100 people. They make up 98% of Oregon companies. Small businesses employ 667,000 people, generating over \$18 billion a year in payroll, nearly 44% of the total private sector payroll in Oregon.

Representative Thatcher has been a champion for small business in Oregon with a special focus on reducing burdensome government regulations. In 2005 Thatcher authored legislation that gained national attention. It calls on state agencies to examine the impact of administrative rules on the business community and requires these rules be updated every five years.

"There are thousands of pages of rules and regs on the books in Oregon which are often misinterpreted causing a lot of hardship for small businesses," explained Thatcher. "I will continue to work on regulatory reforms to reduce the bureaucracy and make Oregon a friendlier place to do business."

As a small business owner, Thatcher feels it is important for her colleagues to work together on government reforms. Thatcher serves on the House Interim Committee on Economic Development and is a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Women in Construction Salem Chapter. She is also co-founder of the Oregon Contractors Association representing small contractors all over the state.

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) is holding [special award ceremonies](#) in Washington, D.C. this week, honoring small business owners nominated in each state. The 2006 state winner for Oregon is Rich Baek, President of VTM, a Portland based consulting, marketing and public relations firm.

"Oregon is truly a small business state. When the chips were down during the recent recession, large corporations were downsizing, but many small companies were holding their own," noted Thatcher. "We need to do more to encourage people to start and expand small businesses."

For more information check out the [Oregon's Small Business Development Centers](#), the [Oregon Economic and Community Development Department](#), or the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council.

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