

NEWS 2/14/13

Thursday at the Capitol, Oregon's Statehood was celebrated. Governor John Kitzhaber spoke briefly at the ceremony, about how the state has evolved since February 14, 1859 when Oregon became the 33<sup>rd</sup> state in the union. The Governor noted that Oregon is becoming known for our quality agricultural products, many of which are now sold around the world. The Governor specifically mentioned seeing Tillamook Cheese for sale on his last trade mission to Asia, and it was nice to hear one my district's premier brands mentioned as one of the high quality Oregon products available in international markets.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly convened last week, and things are already moving very quickly. On Wednesday two of my bills, House Bill 2183 and 2182 were unanimously approved on the House floor and now move to the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 2183 relates to emergency preparedness, and specifically to earthquake drills. Because Oregon is at risk of earthquakes, the Office of Emergency Management rules call for annual earthquake drills for state and local agencies, as well as large employers with 250 or more employees. The drills help office and agency employees review emergency procedures so they can respond to an earthquake emergency without confusion or panic. HB 2183 would eliminate the requirement that those drills are held during the month of April. While it is important to conduct these annual drills, this change will allow agencies and businesses more flexibility in scheduling.

HB 2182 is the First Responder Appreciation Day Designation. First responders are a vital part of our communities, standing ready 24 hours a day to come to the aid of our citizens. First responders are volunteers and employees that provide public safety services, including policing, fire protection, emergency medical services and search and rescue. The State of Oregon recognizes the important contribution these individuals make in all of our communities, and if approved will make September 27<sup>th</sup> the annual Oregon First Responder Appreciation Day.

Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Brad Witt and I are trying something new! We are holding a "virtual town hall" session on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We'll be in Salem, but you will be able to view the event live on the internet and ask questions on Twitter and via email. If you are in Salem, we'll be in Hearing Room C. View it online at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/asx/HRC.asx>, ask question via email or Twitter by mentioning: @TownHall16 in the tweet, or on Twitter: @TownHall16.

If you have a concern or comment about a state agency, or pending legislation, you can also write, phone or email my office, or when you're in Salem, stop by my office in the Capitol. It is my privilege to represent you in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Boone  
State Representative District 32