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NEWS RELEASE

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SESSION INCLUDED ACCOMPLISHMENTS, DISAPPOINTMENTS

Statement by Senate President Peter Courtney

“No session is perfect. Every session has accomplishments and disappointments. This session was no different. In some ways it was tremendously successful. In other ways it was historically difficult.

“We had the earliest co-chairs budget in history. We passed the biggest ever budget for K-12 schools and did it in April. We suffered the devastating loss a governor under agonizing circumstances.

“We provided \$300 million to make our schools buildings safer and more efficient. We funded more than \$1 billion of construction projects statewide, which will create thousands of jobs. We made new investments in Mental Health. We couldn’t come together and pass a transportation plan.

“We got a new governor with a new outlook. We became the first state in the nation to automatically register drivers to vote. We developed a bipartisan framework to regulate the legal use of marijuana. We missed an historic opportunity to make Oregon’s Capitol safe and more functional.

“We enacted a new way to fund Legal Aid. We passed paid sick leave. We opened the doors of our community colleges to more students. We added protections for domestic violence victims. We doubled the statute of limitations for rape. We had too many bitter fights and relationships were severely damaged.

“We are an annual legislature. We will be back here in February. We need to overcome our differences quickly. Oregon and her people deserve our best.”