



**HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE
SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2023

Press Contact:

Hannah Kurowski, Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

**BUILDING A STRONGER OREGON: Legislators Highlight
Oregon Jobs, Infrastructure & Support for Small Businesses
at the White House**

*Oregon has successfully leveraged federal investments championed by the
Biden-Harris administration*

SALEM, Ore. - Today, several Oregon legislators joined state leaders across the country at the White House to discuss how federal dollars are being put to good use. Because of historic legislation like the [American Rescue Plan Act](#), [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), [Inflation Reduction Act](#), and the [CHIPS & Science Act](#), Oregon legislators have been able to create more good paying jobs, strengthen the state's infrastructure, support small businesses, and more.

"These investments have been critical to Oregon's recovery and are going to help us build back better and stronger," said **Representative David Gomberg (D - Lincoln & Western Benton/Lane Counties)**, who was in attendance. "Projects in rural and coastal Oregon like the replacement of the Newport Dam in my district are going to revitalize our infrastructure, create jobs, and keep our economy strong."

"With support from the Biden-Harris Administration, we are investing in the hardworking people of Oregon. This partnership is empowering Oregonians to be more competitive in the 21st Century economy with access to broadband, expansion in the semiconductor industry, opportunity in green energy, and support for our small businesses. I could not be more excited

for Oregon's future," said **Senator Wlnsvey Campos (D - Aloha, Beaverton & South Hillsboro)**, also in attendance.

Additional legislators in attendance at Thursday's meeting at the White House include Representatives Hoa Nguyen (D - E Portland & Damascus), Paul Evans (D - Monmouth & Independence), Jules Walters (D - West Linn & Tualatin), Emerson Levy (D - Bend, South Redmond, Tumalo & Sisters), Annessa Hartman (D - Gladstone, Oregon City & N Clackamas County), and Tom Andersen (D - South Salem).

Here are just a few examples of what's happening in Oregon thanks to federal dollars and action taken by state legislators:

Connecting Oregonians: Stronger Infrastructure, Broadband

Infrastructure Improvements: Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Oregon was able to leverage funding for over 265 projects to improve roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports, clean water, and more. Investments in projects like the [Tillamook Bay & Bar](#) that will repair the south jetty at the Port of Garibaldi, will help spur economic growth and development across the state. Other essential projects empowered by state matching funds like the I-5 Bridge Replacement will connect families and businesses and make sure Oregonians can travel safely and efficiently.

Broadband Expansion: Because of action taken by the Legislature by passing [House Bill 3201](#), it was [announced](#) in September that Oregon will be awarded over \$156 million to expand broadband infrastructure across the state through the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Projects Fund. This will secure high-speed internet access to an estimated 17,000+ new locations in the state, helping to connect rural and low-income communities with critical services like telehealth, jobs, education, and more.

School Ventilation and Energy Efficiency: Classroom ventilation, heating, and cooling is a big point of concern across the country and in Oregon. The federal Renew America's Schools grant program made \$500 million available to K-12 schools to upgrade their HVAC systems, assess ventilation systems, place carbon dioxide monitors in each classroom, and submit a report on ventilation and carbon dioxide levels to a mechanical engineer for review. Districts will then implement any improvements recommended by the engineer. The Legislature passed [House Bill 3031](#) to help Oregon schools take advantage of those programs.

A Robust Economy & More Good Paying Jobs

Maintaining Oregon's Global Semiconductor Leadership: This session, Oregon leaders acted quickly to take advantage of the once-in-a-generation opportunity presented by the federal CHIPS & Science Act funding. In April, the Legislature passed the Oregon CHIPS Act

[\(Senate Bill 4\)](#) which opened the door for Oregon businesses to access federal dollars to further develop the infrastructure and resources they need to be competitive. Now, [thousands of good paying jobs](#) across the state are projected, with billions in investments expected.

Clean Energy Economy: Recently, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association's PNWH2 Hub [was selected](#) as one of the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs following a competitive nationwide process. The PNWH2 Hub will span across Oregon, Washington, and Montana, and will leverage the abundant clean power and innovative technology companies in the Pacific Northwest to accelerate the transition to clean hydrogen production and use. The hub's projects will drive economic opportunity and are expected to create over 10,000 good paying jobs.

Support for Small Businesses & Working Families

Keeping Oregonians Employed: At the start of 2021, the Oregon unemployment rate was 6.4% and many small businesses had closed. Today, Oregon's unemployment rate has dropped to 3.5% with hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs created in part due to federal funding supporting job growth and retention.

Saving Small Businesses Money: Oregon is home to 396,925 small businesses, representing 99.4% of all businesses in the state, and the Inflation Reduction Act will help them save money. Commercial building owners can receive a tax credit up to \$5 per square foot to support energy efficiency improvements that deliver lower utility bills. Other programs that will benefit small businesses include tax credits covering 30% of the costs of installing low-cost solar power and of purchasing clean trucks and vans for commercial fleets.

###