



From the Office of the House Democrats

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Oregon House Democrats Show Up to Do Their Job, Republicans Take Their Ball and Go Home

SALEM, Ore. – After Republicans failed to show up to vote on a bipartisan bill to help the management and protection of Oregon’s fish and wildlife, the House adjourned for the day. Should Republican ploys continue, the state won’t be able to tackle critical conversations including making Oregon more affordable, pushing back on federal administration attacks and balancing the state’s budget including education funding, emergency preparedness and life saving health care.

Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D - Tigard)

“Oregonians want a government that works. They don’t want gridlock. They don’t want partisan bickering. Today, the House Republicans once again staged a walkout and refused to do the job they were elected to do. This kind of political theater may be normal in DC, but it doesn’t belong in Oregon.”

Rep. David Gomberg (D - Lincoln & Western Benton/Lane Counties)

“A legislative body runs on procedure for a reason. Quorum, recorded votes, structured debate, and committee review are the guardrails that give law its legitimacy. To produce, you need to participate.”

Rep. Sarah Finger McDonald (D - Corvallis)

“I am at work, attending hearings and showing up for votes on the House floor. If I can be here doing my best for Oregonians while dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy, my colleagues should be able to show up and do their job, too. Yes, it’s hard. But it’s the job we asked for.”

Rep. Dacia Grayber (D - SW Portland & E Beaverton)

“Working families across Oregon face each day right now with grit and resilience. They show up to their jobs and families and lives with courage and the determination to make the best of each day. What we are seeing from the House Republicans is the very opposite of this: it is cowardice, and it brings shame to the legacy of Oregonians willing to have a hard conversation in this building.”

Rep. Travis Nelson (D - N & NE Portland)

“Walking out may win some headlines, but it prevents us from having real debate and getting work done for the people. Real influence is exercised in the hard work of negotiation, amendments and conversation even when it’s tough. Work that can’t be done from an empty seat. When lawmakers choose absence over engagement, they trade lasting impact for a moment of attention.”

Rep. Mark Gamba (D - Milwaukie)

“Given the level of dysfunction at the federal level right now, Oregonians need their state legislature to be functioning at the highest level possible. The annual walkout, or threat of a walkout, continues to ratchet down Oregon’s livability. Republicans should be ashamed of their childish behavior.”

Rep. Lamar Wise (D - E Portland & Damascus)

“Refusing to show up for floor session is a dereliction of duty. Every legislator takes an oath to represent their constituents - and that starts with doing the basic job of showing up. Oregonians deserve a functioning legislature, not manufactured chaos designed to stall progress.”

Rep. Susan McLain (D - Western Washington County)

“A legislative walkout doesn’t amplify democracy. It silences it by emptying the chamber where debate is meant to happen. The silence is quite loud this evening.”

Rep. Tom Andersen (D - South Salem)

“Legislatures are built for conflict and compromise and walking away undermines both. As a lawyer, I know the rule of law depends on process: argument, rebuttal, amendment, and recorded votes. When elected officials abandon the chamber, they short-circuit the very procedures that give laws their legitimacy and durability. In my profession, you don’t win a case by refusing to show up to court; you show up, make your record, and fight your arguments on the merits.”

Rep. Sue Rieke Smith (D - Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, Tigard)

“Walking off the job is not negotiation, it is an abdication of responsibility that silences the voices of millions of Oregonians who deserve a functioning democracy. I remain committed to staying at the table, advancing this legislation, and doing the work my constituents elected me to do, and I call on my Republican colleagues to return to the Capitol and do the same.”

House Democrats stand ready to do the work Oregon taxpayers expect them to show up and do.

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