



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release
March 5, 2020

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2020 Legislative Session Ends Following Weeks of Republican Obstruction

*Majority Leader lauds Speaker, Senate President and Governor for tackling the
most pressing issues*

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Legislative session ended today following an 11-day walkout of House and Senate Republicans, and the refusal of House Republicans to respond to a legislative subpoena. House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland) issued the following statement:

“By walking out of the legislative session 11 days ago, Republicans created this mess. They have misled, they have negotiated in bad faith and they have left their constituents hanging in the wind. Their continued obstruction has left us out of time to address not only climate change legislation, but funding for wildfires, rural school districts and so much more.

“The Republican walkouts have nothing to do with any specific piece of legislation. This is about a small group of legislators attempting to override the voice of Oregonians and doing the bidding of corporate polluters and special interests. We will not be held hostage by a few members who refuse to do their job and take joy in utilizing loopholes to shut down our government.

“The Oregon House Democrats came to this session committed to show up every day and talk about the hard issues. We did that. We passed 56 bills across the House floor, nearly all with bipartisan or unanimous support. Though our Republican colleagues chose to walk out on their constituents, our resolve to tackle this state’s biggest challenges, including climate action, has never been stronger.

“I commend the Speaker and Senate President’s efforts to address Oregon’s most immediate needs, including calling the Emergency Board together for Monday and the call on the Governor for executive action on climate. It is clear to me, the only path right now toward achieving Oregon’s carbon reduction goals is through executive action.

“While this session is a tragedy for our democracy and for the people who elected us to serve, we will work hard to ensure that this never happens again. I still believe that we can build a better future for every Oregonian.”

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