



# NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 3, 2014

CONTACT: Scott Moore (503) 986-1904  
or [scott.moore@state.or.us](mailto:scott.moore@state.or.us)

## **Rep. Tobias Read Wins National Award for Innovative Work on Solving Our Nation's Infrastructure Problems**

*Rep. Read Wins the NewDEAL New Ideas Challenge Award for Developing the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange*

Salem, Oregon—Today at an awards ceremony in Washington DC, the [NewDEAL New Ideas Challenge awarded Representative Tobias Read](#) for his work on the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange. Rep. Read was recently announced as a finalist in the “Growing the Economy for the Future” category.

NewDEAL is a national network of pro-growth progressive state and local elected officials working to expand opportunity in the changing economy. The first ever New Ideas Challenge gives recognition to smart, pro-growth progressive solutions that are being developed and tested by state and local leaders all across the country.

At a time when our nation faces significant infrastructure challenges, Representative Read's idea shows leadership and creativity in this area. He was chosen out of a competitive field of 60 submissions.

A center of expertise for infrastructure projects in Oregon, Washington, California, and British Columbia, the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange works to attract private investment in public projects, share best practices, bundle smaller projects, and incorporate climate resilience.

In Rep. Read's own words: "There is no challenge so large that it can't be tackled through innovation, collaboration, and investment. That's exactly what the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange and the New Ideas Challenge are all about."

Rep. Read continues, "Infrastructure fuels our economy now and in the future, but every region in the country is struggling to finance necessary projects. I'm proud to join Governor Kitzhaber, Treasurer Wheeler and the other leaders of the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange in recognizing that by seeking innovative approaches and the involvement of the private sector in public infrastructure, we can stretch taxpayer dollars further and deliver better projects."

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler said the following about the award: "I'm pleased that the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange has received this national acclaim. Rep. Read has been a fantastic partner to work with on this project, and he deserves a lot of credit getting it to where it is."

Rep. Read is honored to receive this award and will continue to look for creative solutions to our nation's toughest problems.

For more information about NewDEAL, please visit the website at [www.newdealleaders.org](http://www.newdealleaders.org).

###