



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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*In Case You Missed It*

### **Make the most of the short Legislative session by going slow**

**Editorial: Make the most of the short Legislative session by going slow**

**[Bend Bulletin](#)**

The one thing that gives us hope about the Legislature trying to do too much in this short session is: This is a short session. Maybe legislators will run out of time.

But in an effort to prove they know what's right for Oregon, the Democratic majorities could be well on their way to proving they got it wrong.

It's going to be hard to do a good job of changing the makeup of Oregon's electricity supply, raising the minimum wage, tackling affordable housing and doing everything else the Legislature has lined up.

It's not good government. And you don't have to be a Republican to believe that.

Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, said in *The Bulletin* the agenda is enough for a six-month session, never mind the session is only five weeks long.

And there's something else he warned about as well. This has turned into a session of fear of ballot measures. Legislators have been in a hurry to pass compromises to allegedly stave off the threat of ballot measures.

"These annual short sessions should be technical tweaks, budget tweaks. Not big issues," Hass said. "You set a precedent. 'OK, this is how we fix the problem. We'll start a ballot measure campaign using it as a way'" to get legislative action.

There was actually no restriction on the content of the short sessions when Oregonians approved the switch to annual sessions in 2010. The arguments for it made sense. At the time, it was said it would enable government to be more transparent, more accountable, more responsive. Maybe we should have known it would really just mean more government.

The best answer is to slow things down. Legislative Republicans have responded by refusing to waive the requirement that bills be read. The state constitution requires that bills be read aloud in full before they're voted on.

It's not necessary. It slows things down. But that's exactly what this short session needs.

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