



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Gavel Falls On Most Partisan Session In Recent History**

*House Republicans Blocked Gas Tax Increase And Fought For Working Families And Local Employers*

**Salem, OR** - After one of the most contentious and partisan legislative sessions in recent history, House Republicans today joined their colleagues in closing out the 2015 Legislative Session. Facing overwhelming odds as the minority party, House Republicans united together to block a gas tax increase and fight for Oregon families and employers, local school districts, struggling rural communities, and more transparency and oversight in government.

“Despite facing a partisan majority party fueled by powerful special interest groups, House Republicans firmly stood up to Democrats and said ‘no’ to a hidden gas tax increase, costly government mandates on families and employers, and favors for campaign donors,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte). “House Republicans brought forward legislation to bring tax relief to working families, support local employers and small businesses, strengthen Oregon’s ethics laws, and provide critical services to Oregonians. It’s a shame that Democrats prioritized donor paybacks over the needs of our state and constituents.”

Instead of starting the 2015 Legislative Session with a clean slate to address the needs of the state, Democrats began the session with an agenda to complete [“unfinished business”](#) by immediately passing partisan legislation to radically reform class-action lawsuits, mandate universal voter registration, and make permanent the controversial and tainted Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Democrats continued their partisan politics throughout the remainder of session, passing flawed, divisive bills on party-line votes and killing commonsense compromises and alternatives proposed by House Republicans. When faced with a threat from Democrats to raise the gas tax after passing the flawed LCFS program, House Republicans united together to block any gas tax increase from moving forward. House Republicans also attempted to pull 31 bills to the floor to increase economic development, provide critical tax relief to families, veterans and local employers, and increase transparency in government. House Democrats killed all 31 bills.

One of the highlights spearheaded by House Republicans this session included a meaningful, comprehensive ethics reform package that sought to increase accountability, oversight and transparency in both the executive and legislative branches. Despite strong public support for real ethics reform, the package of six bills, which included a whistleblower protection measure and a bill to establish a formal impeachment process, was killed by Democrats in both the House and Senate. House Republicans also protected the kicker tax rebate; passed safety and oversight rules and regulations for the legal sale of marijuana; passed legislation to protect crime victims and increase penalties for individuals who commit crimes; and, passed measures to increase economic development and bring stable, family-wage jobs to the state.

House Republicans are looking forward to returning home to their respective districts, where they will hold town halls and other gatherings to meet and take questions from constituents. Town hall meeting details will be released once finalized.

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