



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

For Immediate Release

Friday January 18, 2019

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House Republicans will defend rural Oregon in 2019 Legislative session

GOP will strive to empower Oregon's families, small businesses and employees

SALEM, Ore -- House Republican leader Carl Wilson (R-Grants Pass) today assured concerned Oregonians from small communities throughout the state that Republicans will battle for their interests during the 2019 Legislative session.

Making Oregon prosperous is a key Republican aim, Wilson said at the Associated Press Legislative preview. That may result in attempting to “block or stop those things that we deem dangerous to our economic health.

When legislation is designed for the Portland area it crushes communities from Bend to Ontario, to McMinnville and Grants Pass. There are too many empty storefronts in rural Oregon, Rep. Wilson said. “We’re trying to do what we can to keep our people working and give them opportunities to move up the economic ladder. We want to make Oregon an affordable place to live and make sure family and friends have prosperous work to engage in.”

Democrats have introduced an array of firearms-related legislation, including SB 501, that overnight could turn many law-abiding gun owners into criminals. Rep. Wilson said Democrats need to understand that rural residents teach gun safety to their children from an early age.

“We believe, in an overarching sense, that there are people who want to disarm us over time and incrementally they are happy to do that,” Rep. Wilson said. “To be restricted in how much ammunition you can buy, it’s laughable in rural Oregon. When people go to a gun range, with the frequency they do, they can burn through 100, 200 or 300 rounds in one afternoon, sighting various rifles.”

Rep. Wilson said a fully funded Career and Technical Education program bolstering career and technology training will do more for public education performance than the additional \$2 billion Gov. Kate Brown is seeking. “What we’re getting at is attendance rate and graduation rate,” Rep. Wilson said. “Will just giving \$2 billion extra dollars to the system actually get you the results you want? When we reach fully funded levels for Career and Technical Education, you’re going to see more people showing up at school and graduating, because it’s putting something into their hands that they learn and know and turn into job skills.”

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