



from the

OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

For Immediate Release

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House Republican Caucus Sends Letter To Governor Tina Kotek

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon House Republican Caucus sent a letter to Governor Tina Kotek following her inaugural ceremony, making her the 39th Governor of Oregon.

The lawmakers addressed the deep partisan divide across the State of Oregon, and the hope of working together in a meaningful, bi-partisan way.

*“As exemplified by a trying campaign for both the Executive and Legislative branches, it is clear that the partisan divide between Democrats and Republicans provides no benefit to the constituents that elected us,” **said the House Republican Caucus.** “The constituencies that our Caucus represent highlight the best that Oregon has to offer. Indeed, our Caucus provides valuable, real-world insight to a variety of policy debates, and by working together, we can solve the most pressing needs facing our State.”*

In the letter, the Oregon House Republicans highlighted the pressing issues of homelessness, fiscal responsibility, community safety, and the need to support law enforcement. They also highlighted the reality that all laws enacted in Salem reach beyond the metropolitan areas, impacting rural Oregonians.

*“Oregon’s rural communities provide vital resources for our state and over-burdensome regulations negatively impact those who provide our state’s most critical commodities,” **said the House Republican Caucus.***

The lawmakers stated that in-order-to solve many of Oregon’s most critical issues, taking a hard look at the reallocation of state dollars and government waste will be necessary.

*“Oregon must position itself to allocate scarce resources and funding to the greatest benefit. This means continuing to monitor government waste and re-allocating monies for health care, education, agriculture, and housing,” **said the House Republican Caucus.***

The 2023 Legislative Session begins on Tuesday, January 17th. The full letter to Governor Kotek is attached.

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OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Republican Caucus

January 9, 2023

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, NE Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

Governor Kotek:

We write today to congratulate you on your swearing-in as the 39th Governor of the State of Oregon, and to express our sincere hope that the Governor's office and the Legislative Assembly can co-exist for the benefit of all Oregonians.

As exemplified by a trying campaign for both the Executive and Legislative branches, it is clear that the partisan divide between Democrats and Republicans provides no benefit to the constituents that elected us.

The constituencies that our Caucus represent highlight the best that Oregon has to offer. Indeed, our Caucus provides valuable, real-world insight to a variety of policy debates, and by working together, we can solve the most pressing needs facing our State.

To that end, we want to underscore areas of agreement between your previously stated governing outlook and the House Republican perspective.

First, we agree that housing, homelessness, and a lack of economic opportunity continue to plague Oregon. Our goal is to expand housing opportunity by cutting regulatory red tape, promoting small business engagement and job growth, and working towards a sound, economically feasible solution to rising housing costs and affordability.

Second, we firmly believe that responsible fiscal policy can help alleviate the rising costs Oregonians are currently experiencing. At the time of the November 2022 election, Oregon experienced a year-over-year inflation rate of 8.1%. At the same time, private sector wages have continued to decrease. Simply put, Oregonians are facing ever-increasing costs for goods and services which far exceed growth in wages.

Governor Tina Kotek
January 9, 2023
Re: 2023 Legislative Session

We are committed to promoting proposals which reduce the overall economic burden on families, including a temporary reduction in income tax and a coinciding reduction in overall government spending. These incremental changes are a modest, simple way to provide everyday Oregonians with economic aid while larger, structural reforms can be debated by the Assembly.

Third, Oregonians also want to feel safe within their communities. Too often, law enforcement and public safety are used as pawns in political discourse. While we are committed to developing policies which improve policing and community trust, we should also recognize that the men and women in law enforcement provide valuable and necessary protection and are selfless in their pursuit of serving their community.

Fourth, we want to ensure that all branches of government understand and appreciate that the laws enacted in Salem go far beyond the metropolitan areas. Oregon's rural communities provide vital resources for our state and over-burdensome regulations negatively impact those who provide our state's most critical commodities.

Lastly, we also are committed to government expenditures which benefit all, not just a chosen few. To do so will require increased accountability to spending proposals and policymaking. Oregon must position itself to allocate scarce resources and funding to the greatest benefit. This means continuing to monitor government waste and re-allocating monies for health care, education, agriculture, and housing.

It also means promoting policies which provide opportunity, including empowering parents to choose which school their children should attend irrespective of location or finances, reducing the regulation and opportunity cost for entrepreneurs to start businesses, and providing sound investment strategies to existing government programs to maximize efficiency and reliability.

From the coast to the high desert, from the Columbia River to Crater Lake, Oregonians want a better, more efficient, and responsible government. In this spirit, the House Republican Caucus wishes to promote a meaningful working relationship with your Office. We look forward, therefore, to working together on these, and other platforms for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Vikki Breese-Iverson
House Republican Leader



Shelly Boshart Davis
Deputy Republican Leader

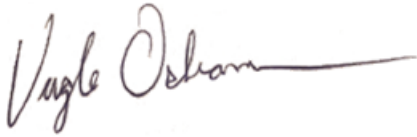


E. Werner Reschke
House Republican Whip

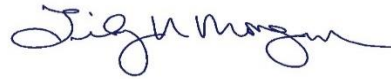


David Brock Smith
State Representative, District 1

Governor Tina Kotek
January 9, 2023
Re: 2023 Legislative Session



Virgil Osborne
State Representative, District 2



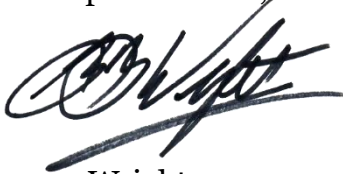
Lily Morgan
State Representative, District 3



Christine Goodwin
State Representative, District 4



Kim Wallan
State Representative, District 6



Boomer Wright
State Representative, District 9



Jami Cate
State Representative, District 11



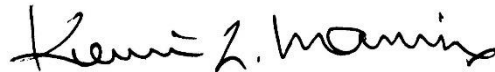
Charlie Conrad
State Representative, District 12



Ed Diehl
State Representative, District 17



Rick Lewis
State Representative, District 18



Kevin Mannix
State Representative, District 21



Tracy Cramer
State Representative, District 22



Lucetta Elmer
State Representative, District 24

Governor Tina Kotek
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Anna Scharf
State Representative, District 23



Brian Stout
State Representative, District 31



Cyrus Javadi
State Representative, District 32



Jeff Helfrich
State Representative, District 52



James Hieb
State Representative, District 51



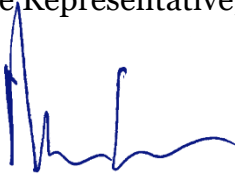
Greg Smith
State Representative, District 57



Emily McIntire
State Representative, District 56



Bobby Levy
State Representative, District 58



Mark Owens
State Representative, District 60

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