



Senator Tim Knopp

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Senator Knopp Determined To Pass Job Growth Legislation *Says Pro Small Business Bills Do Not Appear To Be Priority for Democratic Leadership*

Salem, OR – Senator Tim Knopp has proposed a series of bills that would help stimulate job growth and lower Oregon’s stagnant unemployment rate. However, Democratic Leadership has not held work sessions for any of this legislation. Since the start of the recession, unemployment in Central Oregon has been consistently worse than much of the rest of Oregon. Deschutes County register’s its unemployment rate at 10.5%. Senator Knopp has made it a priority is to get people working again. He has sponsored Senate Bills [594](#), [670](#), [671](#), [678](#), [734](#), [819](#) and [845](#).

“The status quo is unacceptable,” Senator Knopp states. “Consistent high unemployment deserves more effort from legislative leadership. Many legislators have proposed bills to allow Salem to step back and let small businesses thrive. I am concerned that the senate leadership doesn’t appear to want to take any action on these job creating bills that unemployed Oregonians are desperate for. I won’t give up until these bills and other like this are passed.”

A recent report by Oregon Employment Department stated that there has been anemic job growth in Deschutes County over the past year, while Central Oregon has shown few signs of a recovery and represent one of the highest on average unemployment rates in the state. Many of Senator Knopp’s pro small business bills have bi-partisan support. If passed the bills would help create an environment to help spur job growth. Additionally the Senate Republican Office has recently issued a letter to Senate President Peter Courtney outlining many pro jobs bills, very few have received hearings.

Sen. Knopp was previously in the Legislature from 1999 to 2005 for three terms, including one as Oregon House Majority Leader, where he led the PERS Reforms of 2003 that saved taxpayers billions. He was appointed to the Education and Workforce Development and Health Care and Human Services committees for the 2013 Legislative Session. Tim was elected to his first term in the Oregon State Senate in November 2012. Senate District 27 encompasses the Central Oregon communities of Bend, Redmond, Sunriver, and Tumalo.

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Attached:
PDF of Press Release
Senator Knopp Quote Audio