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NEWS RELEASE

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Joint Statement by House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney on the Republican Walkouts

SALEM, Ore. – House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney today released the following statement on the status of the 2020 session and the House and Senate Republican walkouts:

“As we enter the second week of House and Senate Republicans not showing up for work, we want to make it very clear what is at stake. In their absence, we cannot do the work that voters elected us to do. The Legislature is unable to advance bills or budgets beyond committees without a quorum, and important budgets and policies will die if the Republicans do not return to work.

“All of the bills and budgets that have moved through the legislative process this year deserve a floor vote. Whether it’s the state’s housing and homelessness crisis or the upcoming wildfire season, there are hundreds of bills currently on hold that would help people, businesses and communities across the state. These bills have gone through public hearings, received public testimony, had open debates on amendments, and documented committee votes. They deserve floor votes.

“We will not be part of closed-door negotiations or last-minute deals. We will not pick and choose which bills will live and which bills will die.

“The only job required of a legislator as specified by the Oregon Constitution, and thus captured by our oath of office, is to vote on legislation. Once again, we urge the absent Republicans to return to the Capitol and make their voices heard by voting, rather than continuing this government shutdown.”

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