



## OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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<http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/kotek>

### NEWS RELEASE

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## SPEAKER KOTEK CREATES SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH COMMITTEE

SALEM – Today House Speaker Tina Kotek (D – N/NE Portland) created the Special Committee on Small Business Growth – a new, bipartisan committee charged with developing sector-specific strategies the legislature can pursue to support small businesses in Oregon.

The Speaker also announced the appointment of members from each part of the state, aiming to bring diverse perspectives on small business needs to the work of the committee.

Members of the Special Committee on Small Business Growth are:

Rep. David Gomberg, Co-Chair, (D – Central Coast)

Rep. Greg Smith, Co-Chair, (R – Heppner)

Rep. Sal Esquivel, (R – Medford)

Rep. Jodi Hack, (R – Salem)

Rep. Ann Lininger, (D – Lake Oswego)

Rep. John Lively, (D – Springfield)

Co-chairs Gomberg and Smith are also serving on Governor Kate Brown's Small Business Advisory Cabinet.

“Whether a fishing boat, family farm, or food cart, small businesses provide the foundation upon which we build our Oregon economy,” Rep. Gomberg said. “I’m pleased with this opportunity to focus on small business as we prepare for 2017.”

“Speaker Kotek has demonstrated a strong commitment to small business throughout her years of public service,” Rep. Smith said. “By creating this committee, she is once again illustrating her desire to support small businesses – the backbone of Oregon’s economy. I look forward to working with all the committee members on this important economic issue.”

The Special Committee on Small Business Growth is charged with three primary goals:

- Gather information on small business needs in specific industry sectors in Oregon (e.g., agriculture and food processing, manufacturing, clean technology, and Main Street businesses).
- Identify solutions to maintain and grow small businesses in specific sectors.
- Develop recommendations and draft legislation for the 2017 session.

The Special Committee will hold its first meeting before the 2016 session adjourns and continue to meet throughout the interim leading up to the 2017 session, which begins next February.

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