



OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

900 Court St., N.E., Room H-269

Salem OR 97301

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

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Danny Moran, Communications Director
danny.moran@oregonlegislature.gov

House Speaker Tina Kotek issues statement on successful one-day special session

The Legislature passed bills to prevent winter evictions, provide emergency rental assistance, drought relief, support Afghan refugees and more

SALEM – Today following the conclusion of a successful one-day special session, Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) released the following statement:

“I called for this special session months ago because we had to honor our commitment to keep Oregonians housed during the pandemic. Today, we kept our promise and protected thousands from losing their homes this winter.

“We also sent much-needed relief to farmers and ranchers impacted by drought, heat, and wildfire. And we welcomed Afghan families seeking refuge in Oregon by approving funds to help them secure housing and meet basic needs. I’m appreciative of the bipartisan work that led to this successful emergency special session to provide relief for every part of the state.”

Below is a select summary of legislation and funding that passed during the special session:

Housing Protections

Senate Bill 891 extends safe harbor protections to prevent evictions of Oregonians who have rental assistance on the way. Senate Bill 5561 includes a \$215 million package to provide additional rental assistance, speed up the process of applications, and ensure landlords are fully paid.

Drought Relief

In response to the impact the recent heat dome, wildfire smoke and record drought have had on farming communities, Senate Bill 5561 includes a \$100 million drought relief package to support farmers and irrigators across the state who have been impacted by drought, heat, or fire. Senate Bill 892 establishes a forgivable loan program to provide financial assistance for Oregon farmers and ranchers who lost gross income in 2021 due to a qualifying natural disaster.

Illegal Cannabis Enforcement

Senate Bill 5561 approves \$25 million to prevent illegal operations and address the humanitarian crisis impacting workers at these sites. Senate Bill 893 expands the scope of the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant program at the Criminal Justice Commission to include funding for community-based organizations to address the humanitarian crisis that workers are forced into with unlawful cultivation or distribution operations.

Afghan Refugee Support

Senate Bill 5561 includes \$18 million to help Afghan refugees arriving in Oregon find housing, education, language and job training, and legal assistance.

Affordable Housing and Homeless Support

Senate Bill 5561 approved \$1 million to each of the following cities: Albany, Ashland, Beaverton, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Grants Pass, Gresham, Hillsboro, Medford, Portland, Redmond, Salem, and Springfield. The \$14 million total will address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness over the next few months. The City of Portland will use its \$1 million to work with local partners to establish RV parking sites.

Oregon Mass Timber Modular Housing Prototype

Senate Bill 5561 includes \$5 million for the Port of Portland to help fund the Oregon Mass Timber Modular Housing Prototype project, which will develop a prototype of modular housing units made from mass timber AND assess the economic, environmental, and efficiency of creating these housing units to address the housing crisis in Oregon.

Gun Violence Prevention

Senate Bill 5561 invests \$2 million to assist the City of Gresham and local community partners in creating and implementing the East Metro Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention (OPI) program. The program will address rising youth violence and improve public safety outcomes in East Multnomah County by building community and investing in mentoring and culturally responsive youth programming.

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