2020 Special Session – The View from My Office

The View from My Desk – Special Session Day 2

As promised, I will use this Special Session HD2 Newsletter to provide a running commentary of my experiences during this unprecedented special session. As we end Day 2, I have to say that my frustration and the lack of constitutional process are really upsetting me. Perhaps things at the Capitol will improve, but I spend most of the day thinking about a line from the famous Don McClean song, “The day the music died”. I’m left wondering if we will look back at this Special Session and think it was the time that our Oregon constitution died!

Here are my personal notes and thoughts:

• The legislators were required to be at the Capital at 8am to provide quorum and then to return at 5pm. We returned at 5pm and were told to come back at 6pm. When we returned at 6pm and the Speaker gaveled us out of session until 8am tomorrow. We wasted the afternoon with zero bills to come back to the next day.
• There were two committee meetings scheduled, but no actual committee work occurred.
• Only two people can submit bills this special Session. The House Speaker and the Senate President. So, Republicans have no ability to submit bills or legislation.
• Finally, after Republicans pushed, there was a bipartisan effort by House Republicans and Democrats, a dash -38 amendment was proposed for liabilities to protect schools, sports and businesses to resume on HB 4212 (omnibus bill).
I was sent here by the people of HD2 to represent them and their voices. My constituents have been denied access to their capitol building, and their stories and perspectives have been largely absent from this process.

We are here to serve the people of Oregon and ensure an open and accessible process. I will do my best to bring you updates and news from inside the capitol to make it easier for you to know what is happening here. Oregonians deserve to know what their government is up to!

This special session is hard to track even from inside this building, and I have heard from frustrated constituents who are trying to follow along online.

We are literally in a situation where as an elected Representative I cannot introduce bills, there is no public comment, there is no public attendance allowed inside the capitol, and as we end Day 2, we still have no clear connection between the Governor Executive Orders and the need for legislative changes.

Stay tuned, I will continue to share my thoughts.

Day #2 Bills of the House of Representatives

HB 4202 – CAT Tax Fixes and Dairies (Sent to the Senate)

HB 4206 – Tear Gas/Sound Cannon Ban (Sent to the Senate)

HB 4209 – Eastern Oregon Border Board Grant Fund Limitations (Sent to the Senate)

HB 4210 – Debt-Based License Suspension (Sent to the Senate)

Bills are still in committees and we could see many amendments coming...
For Information on these bills go to... https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2020S1

See my Representative Leif Facebook page for updates https://www.facebook.com/Leif4Oregon

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Committee Assignments & Work Groups
House Interim Committee on Water
Ways & Means Transportation and Economic Development & Public Safety Subcommittee
Human Resources Committee - Children Services
Homeless Youth, Treatment Court, DHS, CPS, ect.
Governor Re-Entry 2nd Chance Commission