



# Caddy McKeown

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## McKeown Takes Capitol Leaders On Tour of Coos Bay Businesses

Oregon State Rep. Caddy McKeown brought some of the state's top legislative leaders on a tour of Oregon International Port of Coos Bay transportation infrastructure projects, in a showing of bipartisan political support for the freshman state representative and South Coast communities.

The Coos Bay Democrat's delegation included the House Speaker, House Majority Leader, Senate Majority Whip and a former House Co-Speaker. On Feb. 1, they toured several locations where maritime and manufacturing jobs are growing, including the Port's Coos Bay rail line, a local steel manufacturer and a site for future marine terminal development.

"The Port and Coos Bay-area employers have someone who will fight to bring investment and jobs to the region," House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene) said of Rep. McKeown.

Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) said she was impressed to see the state's investment in the Coos Bay rail line already generating family wage jobs. The Port restored freight service in October 2011 and will complete \$31 million in repairs to the rail line later this year.

"Growing jobs is the top priority for Democrats the 2013 Legislative Session," Johnson said. "This is a great example of how public investment can help support family wage jobs Oregonians need in these tough economic times."

The Coos Bay area has seen a flurry of news about industrial job growth in recent years, thanks in large part to port and rail investments. The legislative leaders toured many of those facilities, including:

- The Coos Bay Swing Bridge, undergoing repairs as part of the restoration of the Coos Bay rail line, which re-established rail service as the Coos Bay Rail Link in October 2011. This came after a Wall Street hedge fund shut down the line in 2007, intending to sell it for scrap metal after years of deferred maintenance. With state and federal investment, the Port was able to purchase and reopen the line.
- The factory floor of American Bridge Manufacturing, a steel bridge fabricator in Reedsport that has grown over the past year from 10 workers to 60 with the re-opening of the rail line. The lawmakers saw parts of a bridge being built for TriMet's new Milwaukie MAX line southeast of Portland. Work on the TriMet project will preserve 60 jobs through the fall.
- The Coos Bay North Spit, the site of the proposed Oregon Gateway Marine Terminal Complex. The new marine terminal is planned to house the Jordan Cove Energy Project and the WindFloat Pacific Demonstration Project.

In addition to Hoyle, Johnson and House Speaker Tina Kotek, the delegation included two more Democrats: Senator Arnie Roblan of Coos Bay, former Co-Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives; and former Senator Joanne Verger of Coos Bay.

The group also included three Republicans: Senator Jeff Kruse of Roseburg, Senator Bill Hansell of Pendleton and Representative Wayne Krieger of Gold Beach.

"I'm committed to being a strong voice for the South Coast," McKeown said. "I'm going to work every day to make sure others in Salem understand the issues we face. Coos Bay's industrial growth depends on leadership and work across party lines."

McKeown, a longtime Port of Coos Bay commission member, said job growth is her top priority in the 2013 Legislative Session, which started on Monday Feb. 4.

Photos available upon request:

Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, tours the Coos Bay swing span bridge to learn about the current rehabilitation of the Coos Bay rail line and investment needs over the next five to 10 years. The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay purchased and then re-opened the rail line more than a year ago to restore freight rail service to Coos Bay's deep-draft harbor and manufacturers in Coos, western Douglas and Lane counties. Credit: Oregon International Port of Coos Bay.

The group made a stop at American Bridge Manufacturing in Reedsport, where the company is fabricating components for the Kellogg Branch Bridge, part of TriMet's Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project. Standing in front of a steel bridge component from left to right, bottom row, are: Rep. Caddy McKeown, D-Coos Bay; House Majority

Leader Val Hoyle, D-West Eugene; Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose; former Sen. Joanne Verger, D-Coos Bay; Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg; and Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Pendleton. Pictured from left to right bottom top row are: Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, D-Portland; and Sen. Arnie Roblan, D-Coos Bay. Credit: Oregon International Port of Coos Bay.

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