



MEDIA RELEASE

NANCY NATHANSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 13

For Immediate Release

January 11, 2011

For More Information, Contact:

Dorothy Waller: 503-986-1413

Nathanson Unveils Her 2011 Agenda: Improve Oregon's Rail System and Increase Government Efficiency

Salem – Representative Nancy Nathanson's top priorities for 2011 are to ramp up Oregon's rail planning and continue her groundbreaking efforts to increase government efficiency at all levels. Her 2011 agenda is composed of practical, attainable goals that will have a significant impact on the lives of everyday Oregonians.

Improving Oregon's Rail System:

"We are lagging behind other states and missed out on critical federal grants," said Nathanson. "It's time to catch up and do the good planning needed for long-overdue improvements to benefit both passenger and freight rail. Better rail makes our state and region more competitive nationally and globally, and in turn strengthens our economy."

- HB 2860 creates a Rail Advisory Council that advises on short-term projects and long-term planning for improving Oregon's freight and passenger rail systems.
- HB 2370 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to be notified 90 days prior to the sale or lease of publicly owned land near rail infrastructure.

Increasing Government Efficiency:

"Redundancy is wasteful, and we can't afford it," said Nathanson. "We need to break down turf barriers and cooperate to build more efficient systems, to make sure that taxpayers' dollars go further. When state and local agencies consolidate services, everyone benefits."

- HB 2856 establishes a pilot program that uses a uniform audit process to collect and transmit data from human service providers, and allows abbreviated and less frequent audits for programs after several consecutive successful audits.
- HB 2857 establishes a pilot program that uses uniform electronic processes to collect and transmit data from health service providers.
- HB 2854 instructs DAS to work with local governments to seek opportunities for collaborating on shared motor pool facilities or individual motor pool services.
- HB 2859 creates the Oregon Data Advisory Board to collaboratively assess the current situation and recommend ways to improve data sharing and information system interoperability.

Through her past work in creating and chairing the Government Efficiency Task Force, Rep. Nathanson has found ways to eliminate unnecessary duplication in government services. In addition to her individual bills, she will be promoting a package of 11 government efficiency bills on behalf of the Task Force.

Health care, public safety, housing, and preserving Oregon history are featured in others of her 30 bills presented to the Legislative Assembly.

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