



Senator Alan Olsen

Oregon State Capitol
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Olsen work on transparency earns a victory on opening day

Salem, OR – Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) has worked hard over the past two years to increase the transparency of the legislative process for the public and members of the media. His efforts paid off Monday morning when the Senate adopted a new rule increasing access to bill amendments.

“The legislative process works its best when citizens are active, informed and empowered to influence proposals for new legislation,” said Olsen. “This new rule ensures that Oregonians will have more opportunity to read and comment on amendment proposals in the hectic legislative process.”

On the 2014 legislative session’s opening day, the Senate adopted a rule change proposed by Senate Republicans that will require a one hour waiting period between the posting of an amendment and calling for a vote on that amendment.

In the past, legislative committees have convened, unveiled sweeping changes to a proposed bill and called for a vote within a matter of minutes. This forces lawmakers to vote on legislation they haven’t had a chance to read and prevents the media and the public from participating fully in the process.

“Taking a one-hour time out so members and citizens have a chance to read and understand an amendment sounds simple, but it hasn’t been standard practice in some committees,” said Olsen. “I believe this new rule is another way to empower citizens to engage with their legislature and to allow for fuller examination of the legislative process.”

Olsen is also pushing for legislation that would require proposed amendments to have a name attached to them, rather than the current practice of introducing them anonymously.

Olsen and his wife Juanita make their home in Canby. Olsen is a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1969 to 1971. He is a general contractor and small business owner building homes and structures across Oregon. Senate District 20 includes Canby, Oregon City, Damascus, Estacada and rural parts of Clackamas County.

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