



*From the offices of: Court Boice (District 1), Virgle Osborne (District 2),
Dwayne Yunker (District 3), Alek Skarlatos (District 4), Boomer Wright (District 9),
Darin Harbick (District 12), and Ed Diehl (District 17)*

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Contact: Mary Beth Miller

Email: marybeth.miller@oregonlegislature.gov

House Republicans Boycott Today's Legislative Session

SALEM, OR – House Republicans are boycotting today's legislative session to raise concerns about Sen. Chris Gorsek's wholly inappropriate behavior of shouting down Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis during Friday's Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment meeting.

During the meeting, Committee co-chair Gorsek interrupted Committee co-vice chair Shelly Boshart Davis while she was speaking in opposition to House Bill 2025, yelling at her and then refusing to allow her to finish speaking. House Republicans want to call attention to co-chair Gorsek's misconduct and overreach of authority.

The meeting began over 90 minutes late after news that Senate President Rob Wagner removed a Democrat committee member who had pledged to vote against the bill. This was after the meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled twice.

During the meeting, legislators were presented with a brand-new cost estimate for House Bill 2025 of \$15.5 billion, making it the largest tax increase in Oregon's history. The cost of the bill was not available to the public at the time they were allowed to weigh in on the legislation during the bill's public hearings.

"The dysfunction in the legislature has become a disgrace. Silencing opposition, ejecting a dissenting Democrat from the committee, and hiding cost estimates until the last minute is not how democracy is supposed to work," said House Republicans in a joint statement. "Friday's spectacle laid bare the dysfunction in Salem. The public deserves better than rushed, closed-door deal-making, silencing dissent, and shouting down legislators," Republicans concluded.

HB 2025 now advances to the House Floor without a fair hearing, accurate public input, or the respect every Oregonian deserves.

The joint statement was issued by seven Republican state representatives: **Court Boice (District 1), Virgle Osborne (District 2), Dwayne Yunker (District 3), Alek Skarlatos (District 4), Boomer Wright (District 9), Darin Harbick (District 12), and Ed Diehl (District 17).**