



SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN

Senate District 5 – Coos Bay, Florence,
Newport, Tillamook
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Rick Osborn, 503-986-1074

Fifth-annual Oregon Coast Economic Summit focuses on collaborations to enhance and grow coastal and rural Oregon economies

Oregon Coastal Caucus members to co-host annual event with small business leaders, federal, state and local officials

NORTH BEND – Leaders from across the state are convening the Oregon Coast Economic Summit to discuss education, job creation, natural resources and economic development on the Oregon Coast.

The theme of the two-day summit, scheduled Aug. 8 and 9 at The Mill Casino in North Bend, is “The Voices of Coastal and Rural Oregonians: Building on Collaborative Pathways to Economic Development and Prosperity.” The Summit will highlight collaborations needed to help build a strong coastal and rural economy, fostering prosperity. This fifth-annual event is hosted by the Coastal Caucus of the Oregon Legislature and brings together leaders from a diverse array of sectors from across Oregon. Typically more than 400 business, government and community leaders attend the summit.

The summit puts small business leaders, coastal community leaders, economic development professionals and government officials in the same room for conversations that can build connections to spur new opportunities. This premier gathering of decision-makers helps create the mindset needed to address business issues on the coast such as supporting entrepreneurship, business connection and integration and to plant the seeds for collaborative public-private partnerships that can help coastal Oregon develop a stronger and more diverse economy.

The summit is sponsored by members of the Oregon Legislature's Coastal Caucus in cooperation with several primary partners and event host, the Coquille Indian Tribe and The Mill Casino. The Oregon Coast Economic Summit was launched in 2012 to explore coastal and rural economic problems and develop networks and coalitions to address those problems. It has evolved into one of Oregon's most effective gatherings of regional economic, political and social leaders.

This year's OCES will feature a mix of expert presentations and panel discussions on a wide range of topics that recognize the unique economic diversity of Oregon's coastal and rural communities. Facilitated discussions will explore ecotourism and innovation; healthcare; the craft brewery business; ocean acidification and hypoxia; and much more. Keynote speakers include Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, Ninth Circuit Court Judge Alex Kozinski, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, University of Oregon President Michael Schill and Oregon State University President Ed Ray.

Members of the Legislature's Coastal Caucus said they and other participants hope to build on the success of this summit to continue strong collaboration in future years. Coastal Caucus members include Rep. Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay), Chair; Sen. Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg), Vice-Chair; Rep. Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach); Rep. David Gomberg (D-Otis); Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose); Rep. Wayne Krieger (R-Gold Beach); Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay); and Sen. Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls).

For more information or to register to attend, those interested can contact Sen. Roblan's office at 503-986-1705 or by email at sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us.

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