



# OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

## 2013 SESSION AGENDA

As Oregon's economy recovers, Senate Democrats will set the right priorities to protect critical services and get Oregonians back to work. We will work to get spending under control by improving government efficiency and ending ineffective tax breaks, while looking out for children, seniors, small businesses, and our most vulnerable.

During the 2013 Legislative Session, we will:

### **Champion the Needs of Small Businesses and Put Oregonians Back to Work**

- *Help businesses grow by improving access to capital, increasing availability of industrial lands, and streamlining economic development programs*
- *Invest in Oregon roads, bridges, ports, and rail to keep our economy moving*
- *Support Oregon workers and businesses by promoting use of local goods and services*
- *Promote a level playing field for businesses and make it easier for small and minority-owned businesses to work with state government*

### **Invest in Public Schools and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Training**

- *Prioritize funding for K-12 education to keep teachers in the classroom and reduce class sizes*
- *Strengthen Oregon's workforce to meet the needs of the 21st century economy by investing in community college, apprenticeships, and workforce development while connecting students with local businesses*
- *Increase access to higher education by helping high school students earn college credit and making college affordable for all Oregonians*

### **Stand Up for Middle Class Families**

- *Hold insurance companies accountable for dealing with families and small businesses fairly*
- *Help families struggling to stay in their homes by expanding access to foreclosure mediation and standing up to Wall Street banks*
- *Improve access to affordable health care and strengthen our health care workforce statewide*
- *Promote clean energy to support innovative Oregon companies and protect our environment and natural resources*

### **Strengthen Rural Oregon Communities and Promote Economic Growth**

- *Support Oregon farmers by improving access to capital and buying from local farms*
- *Make sure our forests are healthy and productive through balanced forest management that protects natural habitats and rural economies*
- *Help local governments fund economic development and infrastructure improvements so small businesses can grow and create family-wage jobs*
- *Partner with counties to protect funding for critical services that Oregonians rely on*

### **Prioritize Critical Services and Improve Government Efficiency**

- *Eliminate wasteful programs and tax subsidies so taxpayers get the greatest value for every dollar*
- *Strengthen public safety by prioritizing emergency services and resources for crime victims*
- *Improve Oregon's foster care system to be more responsive and accountable so vulnerable children are safe*
- *Ensure government contracts are fair and open to create jobs in Oregon*