



OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER KATE LIEBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2024

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Senator Kate Lieber Statement on Becoming New Senate Co-Chair of Joint Committee on Ways and Means

SALEM, OR – Today, **Senate President Rob Wagner (D - Lake Oswego)** appointed **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)** to succeed **Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D - NW Portland & Beaverton)** as the new co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means effective July 15, 2024.

As a result of this change, Senator Lieber will be resigning her position as Senate Majority Leader, also effective July 15, 2024, to focus on preparing to lead the Ways and Means Committee process during the 2025 legislative session.

Senator Lieber released the following statement:

"I am excited to take on this new challenge on behalf of the people of Oregon, and this was not an easy decision to make.

I have big shoes to fill. Senator Steiner is an incredible leader and a highly-effective steward of Oregonians' tax dollars. Our state is in a stronger financial position in no small part due to her tenure as co-chair of Ways and Means.

It is bittersweet to leave my role as Senate Majority Leader. It has been an absolute honor to serve my colleagues, and I am so proud of the work our caucus has done to turn Oregon's shared challenges into shared solutions. I expect there will be an election for a new Majority Leader soon, and I look forward to working with my successor to ensure a smooth transition.

Those who know me know that I have been interested in taking on a bigger role with our state's budget since I was first elected. Throughout my time in the legislature, I have been part of some of the most complex funding negotiations for Oregon's toughest problems, including securing \$1.2 billion in new behavioral health funding during the 2021 session and most recently delivering hundreds of millions of dollars to start to holistically tackle the drug crisis in Oregon. As co-chair, I am committed to asking good questions, running an inclusive and open process, and working hard to address our most urgent priorities while keeping our state in strong, stable financial health.

I am grateful to President Wagner for trusting me with this responsibility, and I look forward to working with him, Speaker Fahey, co-chair Tawna Sanchez, our Republican vice-chairs, the dedicated professionals in the Legislative Fiscal Office, and all of my legislative colleagues to deliver a budget that reflects our Oregon values."

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