



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

February 5, 2018

CONTACT: Rick Osborn, 503-986-1074

Rick.osborn@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Democrats will fight for small businesses, environment

Oregon Senate Majority Office releases agenda for 2018 Legislative Session

SALEM – Senate Democrats today released their plan for building a healthy and prosperous Oregon by promoting sustainable industries, strengthening our healthcare system and fostering government transparency.

“The Senate Democrats this session plan to continue growing Oregon’s economy – particularly by supporting small businesses – and making sure we have a state where everyone is healthy, well educated and safe,” Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, said. “We also recognize that government transparency is as important as ever and we will be working to ensure that accountability to the people.”

The Oregon Senate Democratic Caucus 2018 Session Agenda focuses on three key areas:

- Investing in Oregon’s economic future;
- Promoting public health and safety; and
- Strengthening government accountability.

Legislators will be working on Oregon’s revenue structure, as it’s affected by the recent changes to the federal tax code. There is broad speculation about how that will affect the state’s budget, but the consensus among Democratic caucus members is that there will be some holes to fill.

Looking past the upcoming session, the Democratic caucus also will support the Joint Committee on Student Success that will begin its work this summer. That group will be looking at education from all angles and hearing from people from all over the state on ways to improve Oregon's educational outcomes. This is important work and ground-breaking concepts are expected from that group.

Senate Democrats will continue working to protect the environment while also creating jobs with the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. That legislation, which is being spearheaded in the Senate by Sen. Michael Dembrow, aims to help the state meet its greenhouse gas emission goals, while investing in new and renewable energy technologies that create jobs.

"By their very length – lasting just five weeks – the even-year sessions are self-limiting," Burdick said. "We will be working hard to get Clean Energy Jobs over the finish line, while we also address budget adjustments and take up other issues that matter to everyday Oregonians. My Democratic colleagues and I are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work for Oregonians."

The complete 2018 agenda can be viewed online at <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/senatedemocrats/Documents/2018CaucusAgenda.pdf>.

###