



## OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

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### **Senate Democrats Condemn Ruling in West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency** *Senators Promise to Maintain Oregon's Environmental Protections*

SALEM – In response to today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, members of the Oregon Senate Democratic Caucus joined together to condemn the Court's opinion. The Senate Democratic Caucus renewed their commitment to advance work in Oregon that will limit the severe potential impacts of federal deregulation.

"Today's ruling in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* reflects a huge step backwards in our national fight for clean air and environmental sustainability," said Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego). "This is yet another extreme decision from a U.S. Supreme Court stacked with conservative judges handpicked by corporate special interests. Now more than ever before, Democratic leadership at the state level stands as a critical line of defense against our hijacked federal judicial branch."

For decades, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has worked to regulate pollution standards under the Clean Air Act. The Court's majority opinion in *West Virginia v. EPA* imposes major constraints on the Agency's ability to carry out their mission, threatening our national progress in the fight against climate change.

"The scientific community has been clear: we are running out of time to combat the climate crisis," said Senator Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton), Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Energy and Environment. "We have made meaningful progress here in Oregon, including passage of Oregon's historic Coal to Clean Act. In the face of this decision, action from Oregon and other states will be even more important. We need to call on Congress to pass clean energy legislation and move the needle forward nationally."

Fundamentally, today's decision in *West Virginia v. EPA* demonstrates a shift on the U.S. Supreme Court towards broad deregulation. The dangerous consequences of deregulation could range from worsening air pollution to declining civil rights and housing protections.

"Today's decision creates immediate and devastating consequences in the EPA's ability to effectively regulate polluters and fight climate change," said Senator Kayse Jama (D-Portland), Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Housing and Development.

"Unfortunately, the Court's shift towards deregulation has the potential to undermine the work of other federal agencies we count on to protect our civil rights and public health. In Oregon, we have a duty to protect those who are bound to feel these devastating consequences."

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