



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
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Statement by Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick on Conclusion of 2016 Session

SALEM – Oregon Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) released the following statement this morning regarding sine die of the Oregon Legislature 2016 Session:

“Senate Democrats are proud to have accomplished many of our goals to help and improve the lives of everyday Oregonians throughout the state. In a short session, we enacted legislation that will make a positive difference for all Oregonians.

We led the Legislature by developing a new minimum wage proposal that gives a raise to working Oregonians and reflects Oregon's regional economic differences. We moved forward with affordable housing and tenant protection bills that will help alleviate the housing crisis faced all over the state.

Coming into the 2016 Session, we set a Legislative Agenda with goals to support small businesses, improve the health and safety of all Oregonians, support education and protect the environment. We were able to make significant progress in all of those areas in our Legislative Agenda.

We balanced the budget and protected priorities while dealing with financial issues that have come up since the 2015 Session. We provided financial support to parts of rural Oregon where it is most needed. Senate Democrats sent forward budget revisions that help pay for local law enforcement expenses in the aftermath of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge armed occupation. In the same bill, we sent \$6 million to Umpqua Community College to address the

aftermath of the tragedy suffered there last year. That funding includes resources for safety improvements to help lower the likelihood that the college will ever again be forced to suffer such trauma.

This session, despite extreme shutdown tactics from the opposition, Senate Democrats persevered and never lost focus on our work to implement Oregon's priorities in a short 32 days. As a result, we accomplished so much for all Oregonians and set the stage for productive work for the rest of the year.

We are looking forward to returning to our home districts, recharging our batteries and continuing to meet with all of our community leaders and constituents to come back with more legislation in 2017 that will help Oregonians."

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