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Contact: Caitie Butler

(503) 680-6944

caitie.butler@state.or.us

Statement from Senator Ted Ferrioli on Gut and Stuff of SB 1547

Replaces Technical Bill with Renewable Energy Mandate

Salem, Ore. - This evening, House Democrats passed a gut-and-stuff version of SB 1547, replacing a noncontroversial technical fix bill with the controversial and expensive new energy mandate found in HB 4036. Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) provided the following statement on the latest Democrat maneuver:

"We have tried everything possible to ensure there is an open and accountable public input process on this renewable energy mandate that will cost ratepayers without achieving the goal of reducing carbon. Tonight, we witnessed another back room deal passing out of committee with only one hour's notice. This is the third iteration of a sweeping energy bill, none of which have been properly vetted - no public hearings were held and no proper fiscal analysis was ever done.

"The problem with this approach are the unknowns. Mr. Roy Hemmingway, former PUC Member, and Energy Advisor to three Oregon Governors, offered this opinion: 'My principal concern with is bill is the unknown costs, and our best guess now is that the cost to ratepayers will be substantial. PGE at the PUC hearing estimated rate increases as a result of the bill at %1.5 per year over and above all other rate increases. That estimate results in rates being over 40% higher...when the bill is fully implemented.'" - Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day)

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