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Senate Republicans Speak Out Against Expensive Paid Time Off Mandate

Price Tag: \$2 Billion for Oregon Businesses

Salem, OR - Senate Republicans released the following statements following debate on SB 454, a costly new mandate on Oregon's small businesses requiring employers to provide paid time off for their employees.

Following the failure of an amendment to exempt agricultural businesses on a party-line vote:

"This new mandate is harmful to Oregon's small-scale farmers and ranchers who rely on seasonal workers during busy times like harvest. While Big Ag companies can stomach an expensive new mandate, medium-to-small sized farms and ranches won't be able to absorb the cost of providing paid time off to temporary workers, or even the extra book keeping. The idea sounds nice, but it just doesn't work for some of Oregon's most important small businesses - the farms and ranches that provide food for Oregon families." Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River)

Regarding Senate Democrats' rejection of an amendment to protect small businesses with fewer than 25 employees and a motion to reimburse small businesses for part of the cost of providing paid sick leave:

"Democrats don't seem to understand how expensive mandates harm small businesses. 92% of Oregon businesses have fewer than 25 employees, and they often don't have the workforce available to cover shifts at the last minute or the margins to pay employees for time off. Employees shouldn't have to show up to work sick, but we need to protect the backbone of our community: small businesses that provide stable jobs for working

Oregonians." Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend)

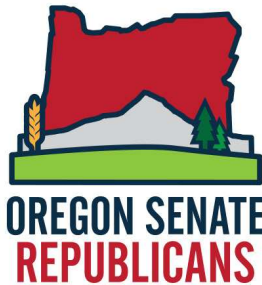
On the rejection of four job creation bills on the Senate floor:

"Senate Democrats have now had 27 opportunities to pass common-sense measures that would spur job creation across the state. They've proven they care more about promoting special interests than creating family-wage jobs for Oregonians. Rural Oregon in particular is desperate for new living-wage jobs, but Senate Democrats refuse to incentivize businesses that create living-wage jobs or streamline development of shovel-ready job sites. Oregonians need to know that their legislative leaders are not in their corner." Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day)

On the passage of SB 454, a \$2 billion mandate to Oregon businesses:

"By passing this expensive new paid time off mandate, Senate Democrats have put the final nail in the coffin of economic growth and job creation for Oregonians. This \$2 billion mandate on Oregon businesses will force small business owners to raise prices or cut costs, leading to reduced hours and employee layoffs. This is the antithesis of economic growth and will ultimately lead to higher prices for consumers, meaning Oregon families will ultimately pay the price for this new mandate. This anti-small business crusade must stop now." Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby)

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