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Fifty Bills to Create Jobs for Oregonians Rejected by Senate Democrats

Salem, OR - Senate Republicans condemned the rejection of 50 job creation bills by Senate Democrats during this legislative session. Today, Senate Democrats refused to consider the fiftieth jobs bill before them, SB 647, which would have increased funding for community colleges providing career and technical education programs that train the unemployed and underemployed for family-wage jobs.

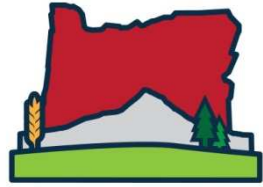
"The Senate should be taking every opportunity to reduce barriers to job creation and invest in programs that train Oregonians for living-wage jobs," said Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "Instead, Senate Democrats have passed up 50 different opportunities to get Oregonians back to work while simultaneously imposing new, unfunded mandates on small businesses. When will Democrats wake up and realize that the key to stable funding for education and other critical services is creating family wage jobs and growing our economy so all Oregonians can prosper and contribute?"

Among the 50 rejected jobs bills were several that would give rural communities an economic boost, creating jobs in regions that haven't seen strong economic growth and recovery. Today, a bill that helps counties with shrinking populations to develop new jobs failed on a party-line vote in the Oregon Senate.

"Rural Oregonians have been left behind for too long," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "They suffer from fewer opportunities, lower wages and higher unemployment rates than Oregonians in metro areas. These bills would have given rural economies a jolt, reducing barriers to creating family-wage jobs that improve the quality of life for thousands of Oregonians living in rural communities. Portland priorities don't work for them.

It's time we abandon our one-size-fits-all approach to job creation and put rural Oregon families and small businesses first."

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