

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 9, 2016 Jonathan Lockwood Communications Director 971-645-2140 jonathan.lockwood@oregonlegislature.gov

## Senate Republicans welcome the 79th Legislative Session

SALEM-Today, Senate Republicans offered the following statements welcoming the 79th Legislative Session:

State Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton, said:

"The truth is we have a billion and a half more dollars to spend and the shortfall is by creative accountants who wouldn't survive a day in the private sector. There is no shortfall. We are committed to strong, sound fiscal policy that puts Oregonians first."

Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, of John Day, said:

"We must address significant problems facing our transportation systems and advance sound, broadly supported solutions that protect Oregonians from increased costs and unnecessary burdens."

Central Oregon Republican state Sen. Tim Knopp said:

"By overhauling PERS we will protect current and future retirees and taxpayers. We have the opportunity to renovate our housing policy to alleviate the problems plaguing vulnerable Oregonians and the opportunity to produce meaningful change that will expand growth and prosperity in our state."

Salem Republican state Sen. Jackie Winters said:

"Constitutionally we are here to balance the budget and while it isn't easy, our challenge is to work together, to improve the lives of Oregonians."

New to the Senate, state Sen. Alan DeBoer, of Ashland, said:

"We are honored to serve Oregonians and we look forward to addressing the challenges facing our state with optimism and diligence."

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