

**State Representative
Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer)**



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Rep Thatcher Attends Oregon Business Leadership Summit

(Portland) State Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) said she was “cautiously optimistic about the initiatives laid out at today’s meeting.” The 4th Annual Oregon Leadership Summit was held at the Portland Convention Center to review and update the Oregon Business Plan.

“I was impressed with the caliber of business and political leaders who attended the gathering,” explained Thatcher, “it showed there are a lot of folks in the public and private sector working hard to continue Oregon’s current path toward economic growth.” Thatcher serves on the House Interim Committee on Economic Development and was on the House Transportation Committee last year.

Today’s Summit brought in experts from a number of fields and outlined new initiatives to expand on goals established by the Plan in order to address challenges facing Oregon’s workforce. Today’s initiative calls for a new effort to prepare all high school students for college.

“While I was encouraged by many of the ideas proposed today, I have serious reservations about some of the others, such as a hike in the gas tax and adding on more unnecessary testing for high school students,” warned Thatcher. Today’s Summit also called for enhancing the Oregon Cluster Network to help industries in specialized areas such as forestry biomass, and biosciences.

“Even though our economy is one of the fastest growing in the country right now, our unemployment rate is still among the highest. We must do more to put Oregonians back to work,” noted Rep Thatcher. “The Oregon Business Plan has a good framework, but I wish it engaged more resources in private industry, and had fewer demands for taxpayer funded services. “

The Oregon Business Plan is supported by dozens of trade associations, non-profit groups, government agencies and individual corporations, all working to help strengthen our state’s economy. Learn more at www.oregonbusinessplan.org

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