## State Representative Kim Thatcher House District 25



NEWS RELEASE: March 23, 2011

**CONTACT:** Dawn Phillips

503.750.1764

## Rep Thatcher Applauds Treasurer's Move For Accountability Hearing on Bonuses for Investment Officers Next Tuesday

(Salem) <u>State Representative Kim Thatcher</u> (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul) applauded today's announcement by State Treasurer Ted Wheeler to add more accountability to the system used to oversee the agency's investment officers.

Representative Thatcher is the Co-Chairperson for the Joint Committee on Legislative Audits, Information Management & Technology which is holding a hearing on the bonuses provided to these investment officers next **Tuesday**, **March 29**<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm in Hearing Room F at the State Capitol.

"The Treasurer is moving in the right direction," said Thatcher. "These employees are responsible for investing billions of taxpayer dollars and need to be held to a higher standard."

Treasurer Wheeler is backing legislation to require the investment officers to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. In December 2010, the Legislature's Emergency Board authorized the Treasurer to spend more than \$900,000 on annual bonuses for these employees who manage state funds.

In his announcement today, Wheeler stressed the importance of transparency and Thatcher agrees, adding "I am also encouraged to see the Treasurer voluntarily posting information about his budget and other items on the state's transparency website." (<a href="www.oregon.gov/transparency">www.oregon.gov/transparency</a>) Thatcher was one of the legislators who spearheaded creation of that website and introduced <a href="House Bill 2788">House Bill 2788</a> this year to ensure the Treasurer's office will be an official part of that website in the future.

###

Representative Kim Thatcher 503.986.1425 www.leg.state.or.us/thatcher Rep.kimthatcher@state.or.us