

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**

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**INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

SEN. KURT SCHRADER, CO-CHAIR  
REP. MARY NOLAN, CO-CHAIR

SEN. MARGARET CARTER, VICE-CHAIR  
REP. NANCY NATHANSON, VICE-CHAIR

Date: December 7, 2007

To: Members of the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

From: Sen. Kurt Schrader  
Rep. Mary Nolan

Subject: **Budget Requests for the February 2008 Supplemental Session**

As the convening of the February 2008 supplemental session draws closer, questions have been raised about a process for identifying program, service, or policy proposals by committees or individual members of the Legislative Assembly that might request additional funding during the session. In order to facilitate communication and consideration of these types of requests by legislators, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means will implement the following process.

In our discussions with the President and Speaker, we have understood that the presiding officers are committed to retaining Oregon's biennial budgeting system. For budgetary purposes, the February 2008 supplemental session is to be regarded as a "tune-up" opportunity to address budgetary items where emergencies have developed or new information since *sine die* of the regular session clearly indicates a unique need or urgent opportunity to modify the adopted budget. The Legislature has adopted its 2007-09 balanced budget. The public, state agencies, our local partners, and our colleagues have all had a chance to influence that budget in an open, thoughtful process during our regular 2007 session. The hearings that the Ways and Means Committee and its subcommittees held in Salem and around the state led to a balanced budget, albeit with some tough choices. We believe that the supplemental session is not for "a second bite at the apple" for programs that did not pass muster during the regular session.

With these criteria in mind, please put any request for funding you feel is of critical importance in writing addressed to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in care of:

Legislative Fiscal Office  
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Please provide a description of the funding need and an explanation of how it meets the emergency or urgent need criteria. We have asked LFO staff to analyze all requests with at least these criteria in mind:

- Is the request based on new or altered information of a material nature that was not available to the committee during the regular session?
- Would approval of the request meet a need or exploit an opportunity that will not exist in 2009? Looked at another way, would deferral of consideration of the request until 2009 risk irretrievable loss?
- If the request is approved, what improvements in performance outcomes will be achieved? Are there other ways to achieve those results?

All requests must be received by January 28, 2008, to be considered. Requests will only be accepted from current members of the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Requests will be compiled and reviewed with legislative leadership and will be considered in conjunction with the overall spending decisions to be made during the February 2008 supplemental session within currently available resources.