

With the 2009 Legislative Session well under way, life is becoming fast and hectic here in Salem. In the face of severe economic trouble, there are many important issues facing Oregon. I am committed to working together alongside you and with my fellow lawmakers as we tackle these challenging economic times. While there is reason for great concern right now, legislators from across the state have been working together to deal with this recession.

### **Oregon Jobs Stimulus Plan Enacted**

In a swift sign of action, the Oregon Senate Democrats voted to approve a bonding package that will provide thousands of jobs to workers across the state. Senate Bill 338 provides over \$175 million for deferred maintenance and capital construction authority through bond sales scheduled to take place in the next two months. These projects will create immediate employment opportunities for Oregonians in all 36 counties.

By investing in smaller infrastructure upgrades, the Oregon Jobs Stimulus Plan will provide work opportunities for local contractors, many of whom who are unable to be competitive bidders for large capitol construction projects. While it is not uncommon for the legislature to approve bond sales, they are generally slated for later in the session. SB 338 is remarkable in that it was passed by the Senate in the third week of session in response to the urgent need to put Oregonians back to work.

This landmark legislation was signed passed by Governor Kulongoski on February 5. I welcome this move as we continue to work together to ensure a bright future for Oregon.

House and Senate leaders have laid out an official Strategy for Dealing with Budget Crisis. A press release and more information about this strategy are available [here](#).

### **Legislature Announces Salary Freeze**

Just as families across Oregon are dealing with shortfalls in their own personal budgets, the Legislature has had to tighten its belt in the face of economic recession. Both Senate and House members have cut their respective Assembly budgets, and have also announced freezing Legislative salaries. A press release is available [here](#).

### **Thank You**

Thank you for subscribing to this newsletter. As I work to represent your best interests here in Salem, I encourage your thoughts and opinions on my work. Please contact my office at (503) 986-1725 or by e-mail at [sen.lauriemonnesanderson@state.or.us](mailto:sen.lauriemonnesanderson@state.or.us).

Sincerely,

State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson