



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Research Briefing

June 27, 2008

DEMOCRATS ON RURAL OREGON: 'WE DON'T GIVE CREDIT FOR COWS AND LAND'

After 2007, 2008 sessions, Rural Oregon forced to pick up the pieces from Democrat neglect

"When Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) resigned in protest from Federal Forest and County Services Taskforce Thursday, it was in response to what many rural officials see as a serious problem: rural Oregon is getting hammered economically, they say, and the state government is making the situation worse.

'Within the past 60 days, including the Legislative Supplemental Session, we have witnessed elimination of the Office of Rural Policy, the defunding of Rural Development Initiatives and the release of a report from the state economist marginalizing chronic unemployment in rural areas of the state,' Ferrioli said in his letter." (Rural Oregon besieged by state cutbacks, *The Dalles Chronicle*, Rodger Nichols, 4/1/2008)

Democrats Deny an Urban-Rural Divide

"Asked if she thought their actions indicated any type of urban-rural split, Nolan said, 'The entire ways and means committee is fairly well divided between urban and rural.' Then she added, 'We have one person, one vote; We don't give credit for cows and land.' (Rep. Mary Nolan (D-Portland) quoted in State Dashes Expectations, *The Dalles Chronicle*, Rodger Nichols, 4/2/2008)

Democrats Close Office of Rural Policy

"Eastern Oregon lawmakers often complain that their counterparts from urban areas don't understand rural matters. Now, a state agency that deals with those issues is slated to close." (State Office of Rural Policy to Close After Only Four Years, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Chris Lehman, 3/24/2008)

Democrats Defund Rural Investment Program

"Ferrioli was upset because Ways and Means Committee Co-chairs Sen. Kurt Schrader (D-Canby) and Rep. Mary Nolan (D-Portland) drained rural development of all but minimal life support. The 20-year-old rural development program, which distributed a portion of Oregon's lottery dollars to counties, had a strong level of achievement, right up to the moment it was defunded.

A report of the 2005-2007 biennium, released in October 2007, laid out the success story.:

- Amount invested in the program: \$7,014,368.
- Amount leveraged through other public and private funds: \$184,414,616.
- Leverage ratio: more than 26 to 1, giving a return on investment of 2,600 percent

- Number of jobs created or retained: 3,560.
- Cost per job of original investment: \$1,970.”

(Rural Oregon besieged by state cutbacks, *The Dalles Chronicle*, Rodger Nichols, 4/1/2008)

“Instead of expanding the program, as suggested by the Democratic governor, the two chopped the previous \$7.1 million budget was chopped to \$2 million. And the co-chairs didn’t stop with simply cutting the budget. They added restrictions to the use of the reduced monies.”

(Rural Oregon besieged by state cutbacks, *The Dalles Chronicle*, Rodger Nichols, 4/1/2008)