



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Research Briefing

July 8, 2008

OREGON LOST 6,700 JOBS IN PAST THREE MONTHS

Don't Worry Oregonians, House Majority Leader Dave Hunt Says Economy is 'Holding Steady'

University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators Shows Fewer Jobs for Oregonians

“Oregon's economy shed jobs for the third consecutive month in May as nonfarm payrolls fell by 3,700, pulling job growth down to just 0.3 percent compared to May 2007. The three-month job loss total now stands at 6,700; consistent with incoming housing data, construction is the hardest hit sector, suffering from a decline of 9,400 jobs since last July. Initial unemployment claims continue to hover around a weekly average of 8,000, indicating continuing weakness in labor markets, while Oregon help-wanted advertising continues to decline.”

(University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators, May 2008 Analysis, Oregon Economic Forum)

Governor Says Economy is on the 'Right Track'...

“I believe that Oregon's economy is on the right track.”

(Gov. Ted Kulongoski quoted in Governor Optimistic About Economy, Sarah Skidmore, The Associated Press, 3/22/2008)

...Yet Oregonians Have a Different Perspective.

“Ongoing declines in consumer confidence indicate that households continue to suffer from the weight of higher food and energy costs and a weaker job market.”

(University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators, May 2008 Analysis, Oregon Economic Forum)

Democrat House Leader Says Economy 'Steady'...

“We have been fiscally smart... and conservative. We've made the right investments and our economy is holding steady.”

(House Majority Leader Dave Hunt, [Statement: Hunt Responds to Republicans: The Sky is Not Falling](#), 6/27/2008)

...Yet Oregon's Payrolls Continue to Shrink.

“The three consecutive months of declining nonfarm payrolls, in combination with a general persistent weakness among most indicators, suggests that Oregon tipped into recession territory in March.”

(University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators, May 2008 Analysis, Oregon Economic Forum)

By the Numbers: Democrats' Fiscal 'Conservatism' in 2007

20 Percent Increase in state government spending

\$620 Million	New taxes and fees (despite record state revenue)
\$923 Million	New state debt (again, despite record state revenue)
1,178	New state employees added to state payroll
\$12 Million	Pay raises to Gov. Kulongoski's political appointees
\$20 Million	Pay raises to appease the unions—who were upset about the political appointees' pay raises

(House Republican News Release: New Year Brings More Government Spending, No Accountability, 12/27/2007)

House Republicans Introduced Only Pro-Growth Tax Reform in 2007....

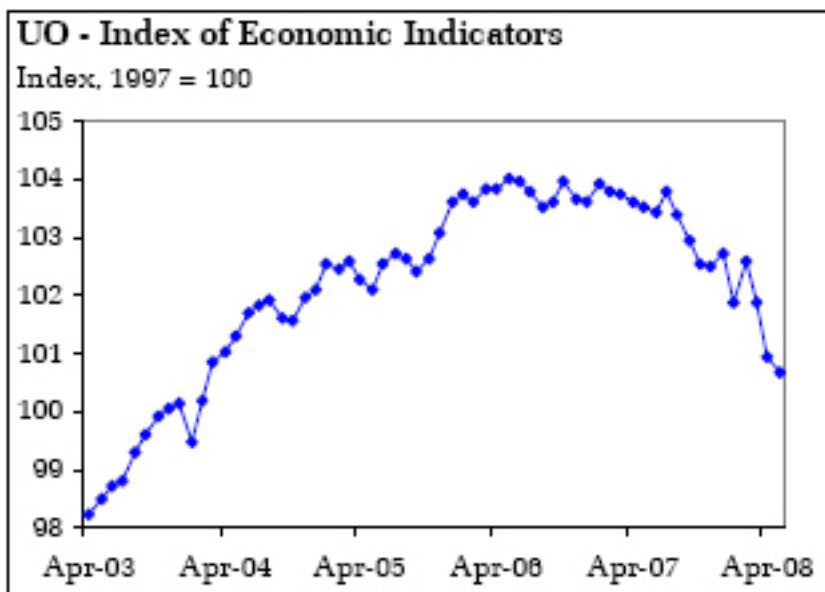
“In Oregon, we suffer from the highest capital gains tax rates in the nation,” said Rep. Tom Butler (R-Ontario). “We propose to modify Oregon’s system of taxation, encourage tax uniformity and invite sustainability in investing in Oregon. In the long-run, a cut in capital gains tax rates invites capital markets to return and stay in Oregon’s economy—it invites investment and growth in Oregon’s good jobs, family-wage incomes and our community schools.”

(News Release: House Republicans Propose Oregon Stability and Investment Plan, 2/2/2007)

...Yet the Democrats Blocked the Reform from Passing.

HB 3425 5/31/2007: Motion to withdraw from Revenue failed. Ayes, 28; Nays, 26—Barker (D), Barnhart (D), Beyer (D), Bonamici (D), Boone (D), Buckley (D), Cannon (D), Cowan (D), Dingfelder (D), Edwards, C. (D), Galizio (D), Greenlick (D), Holvey (D), Hunt (D), Komp (D), Kotek (D), Macpherson (D), Nathanson (D), Read (D), Riley (D), Roblan (D), Schaufler (D), Shields (D), Tomei (D), Witt (D), Mr. Speaker (D); Absent, 3--Clem (D), Krummel (R), Nelson (R); Excused, 1--Rosenbaum (D); Excused for Business of the House, 2--Gelser (D), Nolan (D).

Meanwhile, the Democrats’ ‘Right Track’ Economy Continues to ‘Hold Steady’



(University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators, May 2008 Analysis, Oregon Economic Forum)