



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Nick Smith**

503-986-1351

### **REVENUE FORECAST: LEGISLATURE SPENDS BILLIONS WHILE IGNORING POOR ECONOMY AND JOB LOSSES**

*House Republicans Renew Call for Economic Stimulus, Relief for Working Families*

SALEM—House Republicans today renewed their call for measures to provide economic stimulus and relief for working families. After economists announced a projected \$138 million General Fund/Lottery Fund shortfall in the current budget, House Republicans said the measures are needed because the Democrat Legislature's massive overspending has left Oregon weaker.

"Our concerns about the weak economy and job losses continue to fall on deaf ears," said House Republican Leader Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg). "For the past several months, Democrats have told Oregonians that our state's economy is 'on the right track' and 'holding steady.' We don't buy their spin and Oregonians don't either."

Rep. Hanna added, "We've warned that \$2.9 billion in new government spending and \$1 billion in new government debt was irresponsible and unsustainable. While the Legislature established a Rainy Day Fund, a great bipartisan achievement, the Democrats insisted on raising business taxes to fund it. Despite having record new revenue, the Democrats spent every dime and did nothing to save for Oregon's future."

To fix the Democrats' inability to handle the state's economy, House Republicans said they'll work to create jobs while providing relief for working families. They will introduce House legislation to double the state's child tax credit and make Oregon's income tax fairer for lower-income workers.

"Our pro-growth, pro-family tax reforms will put more money back into Oregonians' pocketbooks and put more money back into our struggling economy," said Rep. Vicki Berger (R-Salem), Vice-Chair of the House Revenue Committee. "In addition to providing relief to families, our measures will create almost 20,000 new jobs according to a nonpartisan analysis."

House Republicans will also seek to reform Oregon's capital gains tax rate, among the highest in the nation, to boost capital investments in businesses and workers.

"Oregon's high capital gains tax rate is a disincentive to keep capital within our state," said Deputy Leader Andy Olson (R-Albany), a House Revenue Committee member. "Reducing that tax rate will encourage new investments in Oregon businesses and workers. As we've seen at the federal level, this reform would also increase state revenue to pay for better schools, safer communities and expanded access to health care."

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