



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER SPEAKER DAVE HUNT

State Capitol, Room 269
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Speaker Says Legislature Chooses Jobs Over Unemployment in Passing First Phase of Job Creation Package

Oregon House Speaker Dave Hunt said today passage of the first phase of Oregon's job stimulus package is a clear sign this Legislature "will choose action over inaction and jobs over unemployment."

On the same day Speaker Hunt and Senate President Peter Courtney laid out plans to cut \$4.3 million from the Legislative Assembly budget, the House approved legislation authorizing some \$176 million worth of construction projects that will provide as many as 3,000 jobs over the next few months.

"We chose these projects because they are both ready to go by April 1 and provide us with both a short term job stimulus and a long term benefit to the state," said Hunt. "We are committed to taking on this recession with every tool at our disposal. We will not shrink in the face of economic adversity; we will face it head on and we will emerge from it stronger than before."

Hunt said he was especially pleased that the bill was passed with support from both Democrats and Republicans after a lengthy floor debate.

"This bill received bipartisan support every step of the way," said Hunt. "A majority of Democrats and Republicans in committee supported the package, as did three rural Republican legislators on the floor vote."

In signing the bill alongside Senate President Peter Courtney and Governor Ted Kulongoski, Hunt thanked the members of the Capital Construction Committee for crafting the bill and bringing it to the floor quickly.

State Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard). Galizio, the proud father of a two-week old son, carried the bill to the floor. It passed on a 39-21 vote.

“When we look back on the actions we will take this session – starting with this first phase of the job stimulus plan – Rep. Galizio will look back proudly knowing that his son Giovanni was there to watch his Dad help Oregon recover from this economic crisis and build a better future for that young man.”