



**KAREN MINNIS
SPEAKER
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 49**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 10, 2003**

**CONTACT: Charles Deister
503-986-1200**

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ANNOUNCE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

The plan focuses on business recruitment, better use of Oregon's natural resources, investing in roads and bridges, providing for job growth and simplifying permitting.

SALEM – Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) and Majority Leader Tim Knopp (R-Bend) today announced a legislative package designed to speed Oregon's economic recovery. The package builds on the plan developed by the governor in late February, draws on the work of the Speaker's Job Creation Work Group, and incorporates ideas introduced this session that will help to get Oregon working again.

"Oregon's economic recovery is directly tied to changing the way the State does business," Speaker Minnis said. "I think our governor understands this, and we are committed to working with him to change the way we do business. New businesses aren't going to move here, and our existing businesses aren't going to expand, if we don't start treating them as if we want them.

"We must reform our permitting and land use systems so that businesses will have certainty as to when they can begin operating in Oregon," Speaker Minnis said. "We could be managing our vast natural resources better to provide jobs throughout Oregon and we must invest in our roads and bridges."

House Majority Leader Tim Knopp said, "Business development is crucial to kick-start our economy. This is a comprehensive package that will help create jobs in rural and urban Oregon while making important, structural changes that are needed to get Oregon back to work."

The Oregon Economic Recovery Plan focuses on the following areas:

- Refocusing Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECD)
- Better Use of Oregon's Natural Resources
- Repairing and Building Oregon's Roads and Bridges
- Providing for Job and Economic Growth
- Simplifying Oregon's Permitting Process
- Enhancing Investments in Oregon
- Enhancing Investments in Higher Education & High Tech

OREGON ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Refocus Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD)

Implementation:

HB 2011 Recruiting and keeping businesses in Oregon – Require OECDD to develop methods to promote recruiting, retaining and expanding businesses; to improve competitiveness of businesses; and to study Oregon’s tax structure and regulatory policies. The goal of HB 2011 is to return OECDD to its role in actively focusing on business retention, expansion and recruitment statewide.

Better Use of Oregon’s Natural Resources

Implementation:

HB 2344 Salvage logging in burned forests – Directs the Department of Administrative Services to adopt statewide policies directing agencies to immediately begin efforts to harvest burned timber.

HB 3152 Healthy Forests Initiative – Directs the State Forestry Department to enter into long-term stewardship contracts to provide forest fire fuel elimination services and forest health programs within state forests.

HB 3160 Investments in Oregon’s wood products industry – Promotes investment in the wood products industry by creating a tax credit for qualified investment in machinery and equipment.

HB 3534 Promoting a healthy economy on the Oregon coast – Makes changes to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council; requires Council to work with coastal communities to include local preferences and concerns, and coastal economic stability, in managing Pacific Ocean resources.

HJM 6 Implementing the Northwest Forest Plan.

SB 699 Managing the Tillamook Forest – Directs State Forestry Department to develop a plan to harvest and manage the Tillamook State Forest on a 40-year schedule; expedites court challenges of the plan.

SJM 2 Priority in fighting forest fires – Urges federal agencies to prioritize fighting forest fires to protect human life and forest resources and structures.

Repairing and Building Oregon’s Roads and Bridges

Implementation:

HB 2041 The 2003 Road and Bridge Improvement and Investment Bill.

Providing for Job and Economic Growth

Implementation:

- HB 3176 Readying lands for industrial and commercial growth.
- HB 2691 Using old mill sites – Makes redeveloping abandoned or diminished-use mill sites easier.
- HB 2689 Rural development – Encourages rural development and investment by authorizing counties to designate rural development zones without adopting exceptions to statewide planning goals relating to urbanization or to public facilities and services.
- HB 2912 Blue Ribbon land use system review – Establishes the Oregon Commission on Land Use Reform.

Simplifying Oregon’s Permitting Process

Implementation:

- HB 3120 Eliminating regulatory roadblocks – Requires state agencies to review rules that are impediments to economic development.

Establish the “Economic Ambassador” program to shepherd companies through the permitting process from the state to the local level – speeding the process of acquiring necessary business and/or construction permits. A number of positions within OECDD would be re-tasked to provide premium customer service to guide companies through the regulatory maze (this will be amended into HB 2011 listed above).

Support the governor’s initiative to create one-stop shopping for project permitting.

Speed up permit approvals at the state level through OECDD.

Support the Governor’s Regulatory Reform Report recommendations.

Enhancing Investments in Oregon

Implementation:

- HB 2950 Encouraging more R&D in Oregon – Increases research and development tax credit from \$500,000 to \$2 million. This will encourage reinvestment in Oregon.
- HB 3183 Making Oregon attractive for Corporate Headquarters – Implements single sales factor to 100 percent of sales, up from 80 percent; modifies Oregon taxation of companies trading both in and out of state so that they are taxed on their economic activity instead of their property and payroll.

Enhancing Investments in Higher Education & High Tech

Implementation:

Support for the key elements of the Oregon Council for Knowledge and Economic Development (OCKED) package which enhance the commercialization of research in higher education, create an integrated workforce strategy for technology and knowledge workers and support and enhance Oregon research centers.

This press release and an archive of other press releases issued by the Speaker's Office are available on the web at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/speaker/home.htm>.

###