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Senate Republicans urge reasoned approach to climate change

Salem, OR – Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) commended some aspects of the Governor’s climate change agenda and advocated for a cautious and reasoned approach to protecting the environment while protecting Oregonian’s pocketbooks.

“There are a number of positive incentives the Governor is proposing that protect our air, water and forests,” said Ferrioli. “However, we must safeguard families and small businesses that can not shoulder anymore rate hikes or expensive regulations. Calm and caution are important as we examine all of the possible consequences in these proposals.”

Senate Republicans have been staunch advocates of energy tax credits for Oregon businesses and families in past sessions. Republicans are also leading the effort to clean up forests and reduce forest fires, one of the state’s largest emitters of carbon into the atmosphere.

“What is the most cost effective strategy to reduce the most carbon emissions?” said Ferrioli. “That is the question we need to be asking. In order to do this right, we need to make sure we aren’t making any false assumptions.”

With a state economy that is struggling, Ferrioli urged a careful evaluation of any plan that might increase regulations and mandates on businesses and ratepayers. Republicans will continue to emphasize energy efficiency and conservation and a scientific, measureable approach to reducing carbon emissions.

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