



Jason Atkinson

Senator Jason A. Atkinson Update
OREGON STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2
February 27, 2009

Dear Friends,

I am working on many bills this session. Here is an update on two of them. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about these or other bills.

All Best,
Sen. Jason A. Atkinson

Agenda Update

SB 472 - Revive the Hatchbox program

In 1999, the Oregon Legislature established the Remote Hatchbox Program to promote the growth of salmon and trout populations. Hatchboxes are lunchbox size plastic crates which hold fish eggs, including salmon and trout. These hatchboxes are placed streamside by private citizens. As the fry hatch from their eggs, they leave the crate and head for the ocean.

On Thursday, February 26, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee held a public hearing on SB 472, Sen. Atkinson's Hatchbox Bill. The purpose of this bill is to reintroduce the Hatchbox program along on the middle and upper Rogue River. Not only are hatchboxes good for fish, but they are also a great way to teach our young people about life cycle of fish and importance of taking care of the environment.

Senators Fred Girod, Frank Morse, Jason A. Atkinson (holding green hatchbox), Jeff Kruse (left to right in picture below) testified in committee in support of the Hatchbox Bill. Hal Borg Sr. and Hal Borg Jr. (in the background) of Southern Oregon, key proponents of this legislation, also spoke at the hearing.

SB 466 – Giving State Troops Clear Jurisdiction Over Rest Areas

Oregon State Trooper Bill Matson brought a serious problem to Sen. Atkinson's attention: the Oregon State Police's jurisdiction over the states' rest areas, waysides and viewpoints is unclear. Recently, a court decision concluded the state police does not have absolute jurisdiction to enforce the law in Oregon's rest areas. This ambiguity makes it difficult for state troopers to enforce the law and protect lawful citizens at Oregon's rest areas. Sen. Atkinson's SB 466 would give Oregon State Police complete jurisdiction over, in, and surrounding Oregon's rest areas, waysides, and viewpoints. As a result, these areas would be safer for travelers and no longer a haven for drug trafficking and other crimes.

Sen. Atkinson as Jefferson on President's Day

Last week, Sen. Atkinson led the Oregon Senate's celebration of President's Day with an impersonation of President Thomas Jefferson. [Click here](#) to view "Thomas Jefferson's" address to the Oregon State Senate.

As always, please contact us with any questions or comments you may have:

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