



Jason Atkinson

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

Dear Friends,

Constituent service is our #1 priority this session, as it has been since you first elected me to the Oregon Legislature in 1999. Our job is to serve you in state government. If you are having trouble with a state agency, call my office. I will personally see to the resolution of your problem. Or if you ever want a tour of our capitol, do not hesitate to call or just come in.

As Always, please contact us at:

Senator Jason Atkinson
Capitol Office: 503-986-1702
900 Court St. NE S-415
Salem, OR 97301

All Best,
Jason A. Atkinson
District 2-Southern Oregon

2009 Session Opens

On January 12th, the family was on hand for the pomp of opening of the 2009 Legislative Session. On the left is Sen. Atkinson with his mother, Peggy Atkinson. On the right is Sen. Atkinson with his wife, Stephanie.

A Bridge to Nowhere: SB 338

Sen. Atkinson stood up on the Senate floor Wednesday to talk about the potential pitfalls in a borrow-and-spend economic stimulus proposal. "We should not be bonding for rain gutters and carpet, we should be borrowing for things that last." Watch the rest here:

Link to Atkinson's SB 338 Floor Speech

<http://www.oregoncatalyst.com/index.php/archives/2040-Atkinson-talks-about-borrow-and-spend-proposal.html>

Jump Start Oregon's Economy

Eliminate Capitol Gains Tax: For the sixth session, Sen. Atkinson is proposing the elimination Oregon's capital gains tax. Abolishing this tax is the best remedy for our stressed economy. The key to economic recovery in Oregon is to make businesses and individuals want to invest in Oregon. Yet Oregon's ability to attract capital is crippled by its 9% capital gains tax rate. Ours is the second highest rate in the nation—among the highest in the world. Such a high rate drives money over the Columbia River to Vancouver, Washington. Eliminating the capital tax is the most effective way to jump-start Oregon's economy. It would insert money back into Oregon. With investors willing to back the good ideas of Oregonians our state will quickly recover.

Raising the Estate Tax Exemption

Sen. Atkinson is also sponsoring a bill raising Oregon's estate tax exemption. The exemption would be raised from \$1 million to \$2 million and then \$3.5 million in 2010. The bill would have a long-term positive effect on Oregon's economy. It would keep people and their resources in this state.

Bankruptcy Protection

The financial crisis is hitting everyone. Even Oregonians with good credit are bearing the cost. Sen. Atkinson is sponsoring a bill which would protect these Oregonians from the turmoil in the financial markets. His bill would give a two-year credit extension to businesses and individuals with a credit score of 680 or better. This extension would allow good businesses and responsible individuals the ability to survive until the credit markets stabilize.

Committees

Sen. Atkinson is serving on three committees this session. For the 10th year he is on both the Senate Environment and Natural Resources and Rules Committee. He is also member of the Session Schedule Committee.

Meet the Staff!

Cheri Adkins heads Sen. Atkinson's staff. Although only 16 years old, Cheri has years of experience. She has been working for Sen. Atkinson since 2000. Laura Janssen joined Sen. Atkinson's staff this session as the office policy analyst. She graduated last spring from Oregon State University. Laura has just recently returned from Washington, D.C. where she was working on Capitol Hill. Deanne Kastine, Sen. Atkinson's intern from the 2007 session, has joined the team again for this session. In the fall of 2007, Deanne interned at the Republican Governors Association. She just graduated from George Fox University where she majored in political science. Kyle Vinyard is the office intern this session. He is from southern Oregon and is currently a student at Willamette University.

Coming Soon...

- **Lincoln Day Dinner, Jackson County Republicans** - On February 7 at 6:00, Sen. Atkinson will speak at the Jackson County Republican Central Committee Lincoln Day Dinner. The dinner will take place at the Red Lion in Medford.

- **American Association of Critical Care Nurses** - On February 13th, Sen. Atkinson will be speaking at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Pacific Crest Association of Critical Care Nurses. They will be honoring the dedication and skill of these nurses.

- **Oregon Birthday Bash** - February 14th at the Oregon Capitol. Join your fellow Oregonians as we celebrate the 150th Birthday of Oregon. For more information, click [here](#).

Also Look for...

- **Sen. Atkinson's 2009 Agenda**

- **Atkinson podcasting** – Sen. Atkinson will begin posting regular podcasts. He will give listeners an inside look into Oregon's 2009 Legislative Session and point out the true solutions Oregon's challenges.

- **New Website** – Sen. Atkinson will soon be launching a new website. It will be the Internet headquarters for the grassroots movement to take back Oregon. It will include Sen. Atkinson's blog, and a collection of his articles, newsletters, and podcasts