



Jason Atkinson

Senator Jason A. Atkinson Legislative Update
OREGON STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2
July 23, 2007

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Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time to share with me your thoughts, concerns, and questions about bills which came before the Oregon Legislature this session. Democracy is messy, time consuming, and frustrating for everyone involved. But in the end, the system works. Your calls, emails, and letters make it possible for this body to be truly representative of the people of Oregon. Your input has been invaluable.

All Best,

Sen. Jason A. Atkinson

Looking Back...Looking Forward

Senator Jason A. Atkinson is committed to making state government work better for Oregonians. Senator Atkinson sponsored dozens of bills this session each with the hope of improving life in Oregon.

Capitol Grounds Bill: The Capitol Grounds Bill, sponsored by Sen. Atkinson and passed by the Oregon Legislature, makes the grassy areas surrounding Oregon's capitol a state park. Previously, the grounds were owned and maintained by the Department of Administrative Services. Now as a state park, the capitol grounds will be eligible for lottery funds. In the future, Sen. Atkinson hopes to fund the beautification of the capitol grounds using the state's lottery money.

Eliminating the Capital Gains Tax: Sen. Atkinson continued his crusade to eliminate the capital gains tax with Senate Bill 585. "Every week we hear of companies leaving Oregon to avoid capitol gains," says Sen. Atkinson. "Eliminating this tax will increase employment and build a strong economy." Sen. Atkinson plans to reintroduce the bill next session.

School Funding: Senate Joint Resolution 16, sponsored by Sen. Atkinson, would have required future Oregon Legislatures to pass the K-12 education budget by the 81st day of the regular legislative session. Washington, Nevada and Florida can pass their entire state budgets in 60 days. "81st day' has become my mantra for good government," said Sen.

Atkinson. "Leading the way on education within the first 81 days takes power away from special interests and puts it back in the hands of the people's representatives, where it belongs." Unfortunately, the Senate leadership failed to even give SJR 16 a hearing.

Rural Health Care: Sen. Atkinson's Senate Bill 519, also known as the Senate leadership failed to even give SJR 16 a hearing.

Rural Health Care: Sen. Atkinson's Senate Bill 519, also known as the Telemedicine Bill, would have given rural Oregonians better access to quality healthcare. Rural Oregonians know the difficulty of scheduling a full day off of work just to visit a specialist in Portland. Instead of having to drive to Portland, Sen. Atkinson's bill would have brought OHSU's finest physicians to you by expanding the use of internet and video conferencing to deliver medical consultations and instruction for complex procedures to remote parts of the state. Sen. Atkinson will continue to push for better access to healthcare in rural Oregon next session.

Sen. Atkinson in Action

Take a look at this clip: Atkinson: A Proven Leader

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t9sCIFUAsY>

Invite Sen. Atkinson to speak with your group.

Sen. Atkinson is traveling all over the state meeting with business associations, political groups and students. Whether you're interested in taxes, the environment, schools choice, or Iraq, contact Sen. Atkinson's office and arrange a time for him to come speak about the issues important to you.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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