



Jason Atkinson

Senator Jason A. Atkinson Legislative Update
OREGON STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2
March 16, 2009

Current Problems and Senator Atkinson's Solutions

Dear Friends,

Many things have happened at your Capitol in the last two weeks. Here is an update on seven of Senator Atkinson's bills which had hearings in the last two weeks, and his video, "A Personal Look at the Oregon Capitol", came out and will soon be available for purchase.

Tax season is upon us in full force, and it is important to remember the current economic downturn does not affect everyone equally. There are families in our communities that have lost all of their income, resulting in lost homes and hungry mouths. This in turn has placed a strain on Oregon's charities, as more people need the assistance they provide. However, also due to the economy, many people are donating less or have stopped giving altogether; placing an even greater strain on charities statewide. [The solution is simple](#), and SB 909 provides the answer.

Many times in life we let the "big picture" take our focus away from things that truly matter, either because we forget about them or we think they no longer occur. One such issue is racism, and we must all be [vigilant to spot racism](#) when we see it and do our part to stomp it out. We must not accept racism in Oregon in the year 2009.

All Best,

Kyle Vinyard

Agenda Update

SB 449: Senate Bill 449 would designate US HWY 97 as World War II Veterans Historic Highway.

SB 467/471: Renting rooms or creating a boarding house has been a long accepted practice in cities across Oregon. Many college students have rented rooms, and many people who are trying to get back on their feet find this means of shelter their only option. One city, with a narrow interpretation of the law, has decided renting rooms is illegal. Even though no other city in Oregon has this interpretation, they have dug in their heels and “tried to fix this problem by committee” which has created only more ambiguity and confusion. SB 467/471 will settle his issue: Oregonians can rent rooms, have boarding houses, and the Oregon Department of Housing will assist.

SB 469: A time-honored American tradition kids partake in every summer is starting their own “small businesses”; whether those take the form of lawn-mowing services, lemonade stands, or dog walking. The Oregon Young Entrepreneurs Act allows minors 17 and under to be able to operate those business free from city interference and hassle, and without having to purchase a business license.

SB 499: Brammo Motorsports of Ashland recently developed the most advanced electric motorcycle to date called the Enertia. In trying to promote ecologically friendly vehicles, SB 499 would allow businesses that manufacture vehicles designed to run on alternative fuels to take advantage of state and federal tax credits to promote their businesses and sales of their renewable eco-friendly products.

SB 402/545: SB 402 would require the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to create Blue Ribbon Still Water fisheries, and SB 545 would require ODFW to study certain bacteria and poisons in fish hatcheries.