



Jason Atkinson

Senator Jason A. Atkinson Legislative Update
OREGON STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2
April 17, 2009

Using Tea to Say “No” to More Fees

Dear Friends,

Our office’s first priority is constituent service. Along with helping you with any dealings you may have with various government agencies, constituent service means representing your needs in the Oregon Senate. To help facilitate this, Senator Atkinson has an [issues survey](#) on his legislative website he would like you to fill out in order to get a better understanding of your needs. As always, feel free to call our office with any needs, concerns, or thoughts you have.

As the 2009 legislative session is drawing towards mid April, the majority party has already proposed one hundred and eighteen **new** taxes. That is **billions** of dollars of **your** money! The proposals include levying a new or increased assessment on everything from capital gains to the estate tax to a tax on water and bird seed. On Wednesday, Senator Atkinson spoke at the Tea Party at the Capitol about the need for smaller government, lower taxes, and eliminating frivolous government spending.

For instance, three of Oregon’s departments have grown by twelve, fourteen, and twenty five percent, and we have gone from the second highest unemployment rate in the nation to **the highest** unemployment rate in the nation in the past seven years. Senator Atkinson echoed President Reagan when he declared we cannot grow government and freedom at the same time: “If you want to give someone a government handout, give someone a job, don’t tax them to death!”

Also on Wednesday, [Senator Atkinson testified](#) before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety on the need for keeping the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility located in Grants Pass open.

In its current form, House Bill 5051 cuts the funding appropriated to the Oregon Youth Authority from previous amounts, and the current plan is to close down the Grants Pass facility. A number of other state legislators and RVYCF volunteers and employees testified for the need to keep the facility open. If the facility were to be closed, it would mean the loss of over 120 jobs tied directly to the facility, and the loss of familial support for the youths the facility services. Many of these boys are from as far away as Klamath Falls and closing the facility would mean their families would have to drive to Salem, Woodburn or La Grande just to see their sons and provide support; that is a drive of over 250 miles one way.

All Best,

Kyle Vinyard
Senator Atkinson's Staff



Above: Senator Atkinson addresses the Salem Tea Party crowd. Below: The Salem Tea Party crowd on the Capitol steps.

