

From: State Representative Daniel Bonham Rep.DanielBonham@OregonLegislature.gov
Subject: Rep. Bonham's Summer Newsletter
Date: August 29, 2019 at 12:04 PM



A message from Daniel Bonham,
your State Representative.

No Images? [Click here](#)



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ..., we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way ...”

— Charles Dickens, **A Tale of Two Cities**

Neighbors –

The opportunity to reconnecting with family, friends, and my employees after a grueling legislative session has me recharged! The highs and lows of session are behind us ... having had some time to pause and reflect ... here are some thoughts that might improve our future.

Moving forward, the operations in the House need to change. Much like the role of government, the legislature is trying to do too much. In Ways and Means budget committee hearings, we ask the agencies to prioritize their spending and their time so too must we look in the mirror and do the same. It's time that we seriously investigate limiting the number of bills that a Representative or Senator can introduce so that serious deliberation and agency oversight can occur in the legislature. During the 2019 Legislative Session, over 2,600 bills were introduced. This is too many for the process to handle responsibly.

We must also recognize the executive branch is a separate and equal branch of government. The balance a power has been skewed with an explosion of agency and/or "at the request of" bills. The power to create law rest solely within the legislature. Executive branch priorities should be treated similar to any other priority in the state. Agencies should be required to come to the legislature and advocate for their concepts and find legislative champions within the legislative body.





The explosion of “Committee Bills” continues to be problematic. Having members of the legislature obfuscate their support creates a process that breeds mistrust. We continue to strive to conduct business in a more transparent way.

Emergency clauses are strategically added to bills solely to deny voters the opportunity to express their perspective. We have our values backwards, the political process shouldn’t prioritize expedience at the expense of public participation. Emergencies do happen in this state and we need to come together as a state when that happens. Having legislators declare the reason for the emergency and then give that legislation a higher vote threshold makes sense, much like we do with tax votes.

Last session, we experimented with video conference calling and hearings from far or remote Corners the state. We proved that not only is this doable but that citizens will take advantage of the opportunity and engage in the process. We must do more of that. Work groups that solicit and listen to a broad perspective of opinions produce the best public policy. Allowing for more public engagement is a goal we can all support.





Readers of this newsletter know that we achieved tremendous legislative successes in the 2019 Session. Let me touch on just a few of them.

Our journey to close the loophole on sexual predators in the classroom was a long one but more successful than I could have ever imagined. From a concept in the 2018 Legislative Session ... to an interim workgroup with all of the educational stakeholders ... to a bipartisan consensus bill. We made significant strides to improve the safety of our schools.

Forest health has been a top priority of ours since day one. With the Oregon Department of Forestry as a partner, I sponsored and passed legislation to

as a partner, I sponsored and passed legislation to improve the Urban-Forestland interface and monitoring of our 2018 priority Good Neighbor Authority expansion. Absolutely critical tools to improve forest health and prevent catastrophic wildfires.

As a chief sponsor and negotiator on Paid Family and Medical Leave, I am extremely grateful that the state has taken recognize the complexities of family and the need to provide opportunities to care for loved ones while still balancing the demands of operating a small business. Small businesses are the backbone of the Oregon economy ... and those employees are the glue that holds us together. Finding the right balance will make Oregon health and stronger moving forward.

Beyond legislative accomplishments, I wanted to take a moment to highlight accomplishments towards another one of our pre-session goals. Communications. This session we put a renewed effort into updating our neighbors on the happenings in Salem. We launched this newsletter. We launched the new podcast. And we put extra effort into are Facebook presence.

By the numbers here are some of our accomplishments:

Number of Facebook posts - 116

Number of people recached - 156920

Average per post - 1,352

Engagements (commented, shared, or liked) with our Facebook - 3092

Number of Subscribers to the newsletter - 1,610

Next legislative session, will be limited to only two bills that we can introduce. Identifying those concepts, lining up a winning coalition, and deadlines for drafting the legislative language are quickly approaching. If you have a legislative concept that you would like Salem to explore, please send our office in email as soon as you can.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be your voice in Salem!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Bonham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Bonham
State Representative



I'm excited to announce, with dedication of Senator Bentz and many local partners, several fantastic Investments that the state is making into our district.

To mitigate the water and waste water treatment problems on the **Warm Springs Reservation**, the state is investing \$7.8 million to improve the infrastructure. Absolutely critical investment to secure drinkable water and a working sewer.

Faced with some of the worse health outcomes in the State, **Jefferson County** community has come up with a comprehensive solution to improve the delivery and outcomes of Oregon's 2nd most distressed county. The Jefferson County Health & Wellness Center will be a 21,200 square foot building adjacent to the St. Charles Medical Center in Madras that will be shared by Jefferson County Public Health and Mosaic Medical. With a state match of 4.3 Million, it will now consolidate medical and health services on one transit and patient friendly campus.

The flash flooding in **Mitchell** created some unique challenges for the small rural community. \$250,000 from ODOT help leverage FEMA funding for flood damaged roads and assisted with rebuilding infrastructure. By acting quickly, we

rebuilding infrastructure. By acting quickly, we compounded the savings and further leverage FEMA funds. ODOT has significant flood related road damage about a mile from town that will be handled by a road building contractor.

The **Deschutes** Basin Water investment of \$10 million, will provide help us support better stream flow which is critical to local fish, improved water delivery to ranches and farms, hydropower, and economic development throughout Deschutes County.



This was a tremendously difficult session for a lot

of us. I for one am truly grateful to be out of the capital and back home with my family and friends. Having shared some of my thoughts on the highs and lows of session what do you think? What are some of the bills that we should be proud of passing, and what are some of the legislative efforts that marks a low point for you?

[Click Here and Share Your Opinion on Upcoming Legislation](#)



Rep. Mike McLane and Holly McLane at his goodbye party. You will be missed Mike!





The floor debate on HB 2020

Timber Unite's day at the Capitol. I am still in awe at the passion and participation from that day.





Eastern Oregon is lucky to have the leadership of Rep. Greg Smith. His guidance as a mentor has been invaluable





The Central Oregon's Team. I am honored to serve with Jack and Cheri.



900 Court Street, Suite 483 | Salem, OR 97301-3896
503.986.1459 | Rep.DanielBonham@OregonLegislature.gov

[Unsubscribe](#)

