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from the office of
Senator Kim Thatcher

Sen Thatcher Comments on Unfortunate Final Lap in 2020 Legislative Session

SALEM, Ore. — March 5, 2020 — [State Senator Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer) issued the following statement today after legislative leaders proclaimed the end of the 2020 Legislative Session:

“From the start of the 2020 short session, I’ve urged my fellow lawmakers to allow the broadest number of people to be involved in the decision making on cap and trade policies – and send this issue to a statewide vote. Instead, the session is ending in the wrong direction – leaving the decision making in the hands of the lowest number; just the Governor and her Executive Orders. This is not the kind of governance Oregonians want or deserve.

Many of us exercised a process allowed under the Oregon Constitution and Senate Rules to boycott the session, because allowing a quorum would result in passage of a law that’s detrimental to Oregon families and businesses and the process lacked [accountability](#), [transparency](#) and integrity. Twenty-eight out of 36 counties have adopted proclamations opposing the legislation as well.

I sponsored a measure ([Senate Joint Resolution 202](#)) to eliminate the 35-day even-year sessions primarily because of these kinds of contentious, complex disputes that lead to unfortunate endings. Most of the voters I’ve heard from say this is not what they supported when they voted for short sessions a decade ago.

In recent months, I’ve wanted to contribute to the Vietnam War Memorial ([vietnamwarmemorialfund.org](#)) proposed for the State Capitol Grounds. So, I recently donated my per diem allotment from the past two weeks to the Memorial Fund and encourage others to support the cause as well.”

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900 Court Street NE S-307, Salem, OR 97301 ■ 503.986.1713
Sen.KimThatcher@OregonLegislature.gov ■ www.oregonlegislature.gov/thatcher

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Senator Kim Thatcher | 900 Court St. NE, S-307, Salem, OR 97301

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