



**THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR**

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Peter Courtney
President of the Senate
900 Court Street NE, S203
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Karen Minnis
Speaker of the House
900 Court Street NE, Room 269
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Minnis:

I am writing to congratulate you and the members of your leadership teams for a job well done by reaching an agreement on a budget figure that will now allow our most difficult and important work to move forward. Your agreement is consistent with the six budget principles that guided my budget development process and demonstrates a commitment to work in a bipartisan effort to ensure we make the best decisions about how to invest Oregon tax dollars.

As the legislative process moves forward, it is important that we focus on targeting our investments into the programs that support our growing economy and serve the needs of the citizens of our state. This focus must not only be on the short-term, but also the long-term, which means developing a budget in the 05-07 legislative session that is sustainable for future biennia.

It is essential that any budget adopted and sent to my desk for signature places education as a top priority. Our economy is directly linked to the stability and quality of our public education system. This does not just mean K-12 education. If Oregon is to be the innovation state and a leader in technology and education, we must create a seamless Pre-K through 20 education system and provide continuing workforce development opportunities.

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We must also craft a budget that looks out for our most vulnerable citizens so they have access to basic health, food and shelter needs. We must strengthen Oregon's already positive business climate and invest in economic development projects that result in the creation and retention of family-wage jobs. Oregon is a leader in creating a healthy balance among growth, infrastructure development and environmental protection, and we must ensure our actions today sustain this record of achievement.

Our quality of life and our economy are also related to the safety of our citizens. We cannot make choices today that put that safety at risk. Therefore, the 05-07 budget must create an adequate, stable and sustainable funding source for the Oregon State Police.

Lastly, we must uphold our responsibility to the people of Oregon to make government stable, responsive and accountable to its citizens. That means maximizing state revenues and making spending choices that give citizens the opportunities they need to support their families and contribute to Oregon's growing economy.

I look forward to working with you in the months ahead so we can demonstrate that government can play a positive role in making Oregon an even better state to live and work today and for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore R. Kulongoski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

Copy: The Honorable Kate Brown
The Honorable Kurt Schrader
The Honorable Margaret Carter
The Honorable Wayne Scott
The Honorable Susan Morgan