



BEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ACTION

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

▶ **Fallen Officers' Bill: Public Safety Memorial Fund (1999)**

Sets aside additional court penalties to provide benefits and assistance to families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. Funded at no expense to taxpayers, the Memorial Fund provides immediate assistance as well as help with longer-term costs. (HB 2391)

▶ **Oregon Cultural Trust (2001)**

Ben established a tax credit for direct contributions to the Oregon Trust for Cultural Development, a long-term public/ private funding initiative designed to preserve and strengthen culture for all Oregonians. As an early architect of the Trust, Ben now sits on the Board. (HB 2923)

▶ **Ways & Means Co-Chair (2001)**

Ben served as the Chairman of Ways and Means Committee in the State Legislature, where he led the efforts to cut over \$1 billion from the state budget during the economic downturn a few years ago.

▶ **OSU Cascades (2001)**

Ben spearheaded the effort to create and fund a brand new campus of OSU in Bend.

▶ **Medical Assistance Program (2003)**

Ben co-authored HB 3624, reforming the Oregon Health Plan. The reforms helped to save the Oregon Health Plan by finding efficiencies within the system and recovering millions of dollars.

▶ **Solar Tax Credits (2005)**

As a proponent of alternative energy, Ben was instrumental in expanding the solar energy tax credit during the 2005 session. The bill passed with overwhelming support. (SB 31)

▶ **Civil Unions (2005)**

As an author and primary sponsor of SB 1000, Ben fought all session to bring equal rights to all of Oregon's families.

INITIATIVES

▶ **Oregon Open Primary**

Allows all Oregonians to vote in primary elections for the candidate of their choice, regardless of party.

▶ **HOPE For Oregon Families**

Makes access to basic health care a constitutional right. The legislature must plan to extend primary and preventative health care by 2009.

▶ **Family Health and Wellness Act**

Provides health care for uninsured children and more working families through small-business employers by raising tobacco taxes.

▶ **Apollo: New Energy for Oregon**

Expands Oregon's renewable energy market, decreases dependence on foreign oil and creates good paying jobs.