

Burley considers economic impact of energy solutions

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. -- State Representative Chuck Burley (R-Bend) presented his legislative perspective on state energy solutions during a panel at the Second Annual NW Energy Summit on Wednesday. The summit included national and state leaders, Oregon energy companies, and other experts who gathered to discuss technologies and energy proposals for the future. Technology demonstrations were also featured including fuel cells, biomass, solar, and wave technology.

“This event was designed to address the multifaceted issue of energy and discuss options for the future of our region,” said Burley. “Without forums in which to bring together the various organizations, parties, and agencies, this effort would fall to the wayside; something Oregon cannot allow on this vital issue.”

The conference addressed topics from climate change to carbon taxes and government incentives. Burley, Vice-Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee, discussed legislative initiatives, and how Oregon’s energy future will be addressed in the next session. Known for his ratepayer advocacy, Burley focused his discussion on the economic impacts of government mandates and the possible opportunities created through incentives for Oregonians.

“As we move forward with creating a sustainable and alternative energy policy, it is important that we are cognizant of those who pay for this new energy,” said Burley. “Clearly, with a struggling American economy and skyrocketing energy prices, the economic impacts are issues that cannot be ignored.”

Burley went on to say that while Oregon should be leaders in alternative energy, it is also important to view the state as part of a larger entity. Partnerships and coalitions must be made at the state, regional, and national levels if Oregon is going to find effective solutions.

Other leaders who spoke at the conference include representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PNGC Power, local utilities, and technology companies such as fuel cell producers, Idatech, and SolarWorld.

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