

Kulongoski signs MOU with British Columbia

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

SALEM, Ore. - Governor Kulongoski and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell on Wednesday signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" to establish partnership between the two governments to work together for climate and ocean protections. As part of the memorandum, Oregon and British Columbia agree that joint action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that many of these actions can have significant economic and environmental benefits for British Columbia and Oregon. "We have both a moral and an economic imperative to do everything within our power to protect our shared climate and ocean," Governor Kulongoski said at the signing ceremony held in Vancouver, B.C. "Now, more than ever before, we are all in this together." Under the Memorandum, British Columbia and Oregon commit to work together to using an integrated ecosystems marketplace to create economic opportunities. Oregon and British Columbia also commit to use incentives to sustain our natural environments and the range of services they provide. The two governments also commit to the concept of a "Hydrogen Highway" and jointly exploring the infrastructure necessary so that by 2010 a hydrogen-powered vehicle would have access to enough fuel stops along the way to drive from British Columbia to California. The agreement also affirms the two governments' efforts to work together as part of the Western Climate Initiative, under which they have committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 15 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2020. At the signing, held in Vancouver, B.C., Governor Kulongoski pointed out that while Oregon and British Columbia are not the largest members of the WCI, by working together to be forward-thinking and innovative, they can lead the way for other governments. The MOU also articulates an agreement by both governments to pursue clean and renewable energy policies with a particular joint focus on policies to promote ocean renewable energy. "Oregon was one of the first states to take decisive action on climate change and other important initiatives that are making a difference to the health of our climate and our oceans," said Premier Campbell. "Today's agreement is a further step in forging the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and affirms the partnership between B.C. and Oregon."

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