

# Climate bill again at state legislature

All but one Republican state senator this week boycotted the Oregon Legislature. This was a repeat of what happened last year, as the Republican group denies the Democrats a quorum as a way to defeat a climate change bill.

Tribal members have testified in the past in favor of this legislation. The one Republican who did not boycott the Monday session this week was Tim Knopp of Bend.

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, Democrat from Portland, accused Republican senators of "a dereliction of duty."

"These Oregon Senate Republicans are denying their constituents the representation they deserve and shutting down our democratic institution," said Ginny Burdick, Senate majority leader, Democrat of Portland.

A legislative panel approved Senate Bill 1530 earlier on Monday of this

week, after it rejected a proposed Republican-sponsored amendment to put the issue on the ballot in November.

Last year, Republicans, who are in the minority in both the Senate and House, also walked out to kill environmental legislation.

The latest so-called cap-and-trade bill calls for the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 45 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2035; and to at least 80 percent below by 2050.

The state of California has a similar law in place.

The Confederated Tribes participate in the California process through its forestry 'carbon sequestration' program.

The current Oregon bill would force large-scale greenhouse gas emitters to obtain credits for each metric ton of carbon dioxide they emit, similar to the California model.

The opponents say fossil fuel companies will wind up increasing costs to customers.

Republican lawmakers said a matter of this magnitude should be brought before voters to decide.



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