

# BEN WESTLUND

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FOR OREGON STATE TREASURER

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## **WESTLUND ENDORSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL, FARM GROUPS Knowledge of Issues, Ability to Get Things Done, Cited**

BEND, Ore. (March 19, 2008) – Oregon Senator Ben Westlund (D-Bend) announced two key endorsements in the race for State Treasurer, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), demonstrating his knowledge of Oregon’s resource issues and his ability to find common sense solutions to get things done.

A former agri-businessman, Westlund has received the endorsement of the Oregon Farm Bureau for his broad understanding of agricultural issues.

“Ben has run a successful agricultural business. He understands the challenges Oregon’s farms face,” said Barry Bushue, president of OFB. “He has been a strong advocate for our issues for over a decade. Plus, he knows how to get things done in Salem. Ben is known for building consensus.”

In 2005, after several sessions of improving marks on OLCV’s legislative scorecards, Westlund was named their *Consensus Builder of the Session* for his work on issues like renewable energy and banning toxic mixing zones in Oregon rivers and his “valiant effort to think outside the box, and find common sense solutions on behalf of Oregon’s environment.”

“Ben has demonstrated he cares about what’s best for Oregon,” said Jonathan Poisner, executive director of OLCV, “He’s a creative leader who understands that conservation is the core of our quality of life and sees its economic and health benefits as well.”

Westlund, 58, moved to Central Oregon in 1975, and after retiring from a successful career as an agri-business owner, was elected as a state representative in 1996. As a legislator, Westlund began developing relationships across political lines and has not been afraid to tackle large, controversial issues like civil rights and health care system restructuring, even fiscal reform.

A lung cancer survivor, Westlund brought many in the capitol to tears after his surgery in June 2003 when he delivered his [“return from the hospital” speech](#) on the floor of the Oregon State House where he recognized the political courage it required to tackle our antiquated tax structure and he called for legislators to “stop being mere politicians who think only of the next election, and start being statesmen who think only of the next generation.”

In 2006, Westlund ran a campaign for Governor as an independent because he felt Oregonians wanted leadership that focused on solving problems, not partisan gain. He found a political home as a Democrat in December of that year. He entered the race for State Treasurer in October 2007 and has been traveling around the state and [gathering support](#) on both sides of the aisle from a long list of elected officials on both sides of the aisle including Governor Ted Kulongoski, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, former Governor Barbara Roberts, former Secretary of State Norma Paulus, many business and community leaders and a variety of organizations.

Professionally, Ben now works with Northwest Professional Management to develop effective, affordable health care delivery systems. He and his wife Libby, who serves on the Mount Bachelor National Ski Patrol, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. They have two children: a son B.J. (19) and a daughter Taylor (15). They live in Tumalo, just outside Bend.

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**About OLCV:** Oregon League of Conservation Voters is the independent political voice for Oregon’s environment. They have more than 3,000 members across the state and is recognized as a strong leader and effective watchdog for the environment. [www.olcv.org](http://www.olcv.org)

**About OFB:** The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a voluntary, grassroots, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state's farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas. OFB has about 54,000 members, with about 8,900 of these being professionally engaged in agriculture. As Oregon's largest general farm organization, its primary goal is to promote educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement for its members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry as a whole. "The voice of Oregon agriculture," OFB works to find solutions that will benefit all of the state's agriculture producers. [www.oregonfb.org](http://www.oregonfb.org)

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