IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

Schiff: ‘You know it’s not going to stop’

California Democrat asks GOP-led Senate to “give America a fair trial”

Lisa Mascaro, Eric Tucker and Zeke Miller  Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Closing out their case, House Democrats warned Friday in Donald Trump’s impeachment trial that the president will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election.

“He is who he is,” declared Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He told the senators listening as jurors that Trump put the U.S-Ukraine relationship on the line in a way that benefited Russia just so he could take a political “cheap shot” at Democratic foe Joe Biden.

“You cannot leave a man like that in office,” Schiff said. “You know it’s not going to stop. ... It’s not going to stop unless the Congress does something about it.”

The Democratic prosecutors ended their presentation just before 9 p.m. EST, with Schiff in the well of the Senate making one final plea to senators to ensure witnesses are called to testify.

"Give America a fair trial,” Schiff said. “She’s worth it.”

Trump is being tried in the Senate after the House

SEE IMPEACHMENT, A8

OREGON LEGISLATURE

Is legislating by region a good idea?

Do bills recognizing differences bring regions together or tear them apart?

Hillary Borrud  The Oregonian/OregonLive

Population growth and changing politics in the Portland metro area have given Oregon Democrats a nearly complete hold on political power, from the governor’s office to supermajorities in both chambers of the Legislature.

Still, that made little difference last year when Republicans, who largely hail from rural districts and haven’t controlled the Legislature outright since 2002, twice brought Senate business to a standstill by walking out of that chamber to kill gun control, vaccine and climate change bills.

Now, Democrats and their environmental allies are poised to revive the greenhouse gas cap-and-trade bill in the 35-day session that begins in just over a week. And in a bid to appease rural opposition, they are proposing a cap-and-trade bill that would phase in carbon fees on gas and diesel on a geographic basis, giving Republican-dominated rural areas a multi-year or even permanent reprieve.

It’s the latest example of Oregon legislators customizing state law for different regions of the state, either to satisfy key opponents of a top-priority bill or to respond to the circumstances and views of rural Oregonians.

The highest profile example, the 2016 regional cap-and-trade bill, where state lawmakers referred to a rural advocacy group formed to walk out of that chamber to kill gun control, vaccine and climate change bills.

The drive for a new minimum wage led Oregon to adopt tiers called "Portland," "standard" and "non-urban." Andrew Theen, file

Regional cap-and-trade

What: Democrats are proposing to phase in carbon fees on gas and diesel on a geographic basis.

Why? To give Republican-dominated rural areas a multiyear or perhaps permanent reprieve.

GOP reaction: "It hides bad legislation ... It makes it just a little bit easier to swallow." — Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis

SPORTS

Clock ticking on Lillard

The Trail Blazers can’t afford to waste a season of Damian Lillard in his prime, John Canzano writes, and need to do something to make sure they don’t.

BUSINESS

Good news for good samaritan

Emily James, a banker fired from U.S. Bank after helping out a customer on Christmas Eve, says she’s been flooded with job offers since her story appeared. B10

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