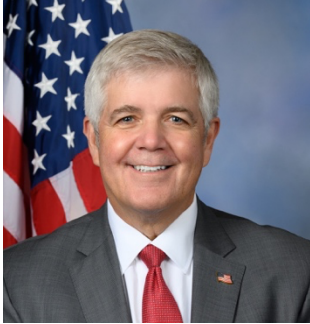


# 2023 OCAPA Winter Workshop



## Congressman Cliff Bentz

United State Congress, Oregon 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Cliff Bentz is a third generation Oregonian raised with his five brothers and sister on his family's cattle ranches in Harney County, Oregon. He attended Whitehorse Ranch and Pine Creek single room grade schools. At age 14, he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle so that he could attend Regis High School (a Catholic parochial school) near Salem, Oregon. While at Regis he lettered in basketball and track, served as ASB president and as a delegate to Boy's State. Following graduation from high school, he attended and graduated cum laude from Eastern Oregon State College with a B.S. in History with minor in Business/economics. While in college, he served as ASB president, as a student member of various student activity committees, and was a member of the honors program. He paid for college by working on the family ranch in the summers and working during school for ranchers and local businesses. Following college, he attended and graduated with a juris doctorate from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. He joined the Yturri, O'Kief, Rose and Burnham law firm in Ontario in 1977 and became a partner four years later. He earned an "A" rating from his legal peers (Martindale Hubble). His practice focused upon ranch reorganizations, real estate transactions and water issues. He is an inactive member of the Oregon and Idaho Bar Associations. His law practice involved ranches, farms and small businesses spanning the eastern half of Oregon and into western Idaho. He has relinquished his license to practice law effective December 31, 2020.

Cliff Bentz served eight years as a member and chair of the Oregon Water Resources Commission, as a director and chair of the Ontario 8C public school board, as a board member and vice-chair of Project Dove, (a domestic violence prevention organization), as a member and chair of the St. Peter Catholic grade school board, as a member of the Eastern Oregon Foundation Board, and as a member of the Oregon Historical Society Board. He also participated for over twenty years as a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish folk mass group.

In 1987, Cliff Bentz married Dr. Lindsay Norman, a veterinarian. Lindsay practices small animal medicine in Ontario. They have two children, Allison and Scott. Lindsay and Cliff own, live on, and operate a 120-acre irrigated (with Owyhee Irrigation District stored water) row crop farm located about six miles south of Ontario, Oregon.

In January of 2008, Cliff Bentz was appointed to the Oregon House District 60 seat and later that year was elected to his first of five terms as an Oregon State Representative. He resigned from the House in early 2018 when appointed to take Senator Ted Ferrioli's Oregon Senate District 30 seat. He was elected to fill the remaining two years of Senator Ferrioli's term in November of 2018. While in the House, he served on the Revenue, Transportation, Energy and Environment, Legislative Counsel, and joint tax credits committees, and as a member and chair of the Legislative Council on Columbia River governance, the Oregon Hunger Task Force, and other committees, task forces and work groups. While in the Senate, he served on the Finance and Revenue, Judiciary, Energy, Carbon, and tax credits committees. As an assistant leader of the Senate Republicans, he helped design and lead walkouts in May and June of 2019 which resulted in the death of Democratic bills that would have dramatically restricted Second Amendment rights and imposed a price on Carbon (Cap and Trade). He resigned from the Oregon Senate effective January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, to campaign full time for the Oregon Congressional District 2 seat then held by former Congressman Greg Walden. He won the Republican primary against 10 other candidates and then won the November general election 59% to 37%. He was sworn into congress on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 and was appointed to the Natural Resources and Judiciary Committees. He also serves on the Natural Resource Subcommittees on Water, Ocean and Wildlife (Ranking Member) and Indigenous Peoples, and on Judiciary subcommittees Intellectual Property and Antitrust.