



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

### **For Immediate Release**

Friday, November 3, 2017

### **Rep. Mark Johnson to retire from Legislature November 6**

*Hood River State Representative to serve as President and CEO of Oregon Business & Industry*

**Salem, Ore.** - State Representative Mark Johnson (R-Hood River) announced today that he plans to retire from the Legislature on November 6. Rep. Johnson, who has represented House District 52 since his election in 2011, will be leaving the Legislature to serve as the President and CEO of Oregon Business & Industries.

"It has been an incredible privilege to represent the people of House District 52 for the last six years," said Rep. Johnson. "I will be forever grateful for the relationships I have made with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, my constituents in the district and the thousands of Oregonians I had the opportunity to interact with throughout my time in office. While it is difficult to walk away from the Legislature, I am excited to have the opportunity to make an impact in a new way. I continue to believe that if we can set aside the partisanship and focus on doing right by the people of Oregon, there is no limit to what we can accomplish regardless of the role we are serving in."

In his four terms as a member of the Oregon House, Rep. Johnson forged a reputation as a moderate, independent thinker and consensus builder. He championed Oregon's innovative tuition free community college program known as the "Oregon Promise," sought to find common ground between environmental and industry advocates on climate policy, fought for stronger rail safety laws to protect the Columbia River Gorge and was a tenacious advocate for structural spending reforms that would allow for greater investments in public education.

"Few legislators command the kind of respect Rep. Johnson does from folks on both sides of the aisle," said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte). "He is a policy wonk, a problem solver, and a friend to many. Our caucus will greatly miss his intellect and his work ethic."

Rep. Johnson's resignation, effective November 6, will trigger an appointment process in accordance with Oregon law. Republican precinct committee persons residing in House District 52 will vote to nominate 3-5 candidates to fill the vacancy. County commissioners from Hood River, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties will then vote to select the next state representative for the district. The vacancy must be filled within 30 days of the date of Rep. Johnson's resignation.

###