

David Brock Smith

State Representative

HOUSE DISTRICT 1

Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties

900 Court St NE H-379

Salem, OR 97301

503.986.1401



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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

Press Release

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Contact:

Marc Miller (Legislative Director) 503-986-1401 marc.miller@oregonlegislature.gov

SALEM, OR – State Representative David Brock Smith’s Bill Celebrating 50-year Anniversary of Oregon’s Landmark Beach Bill Passes Out of Committee

(SALEM) – House Concurrent Resolution 8, which commemorates Oregon’s Landmark Beach Bill, passed out of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness today with a unanimous vote. “As Oregonians, I think this bill is something we can all get behind and give bi-partisan support,” said Rep. Brock Smith (R – Port Orford).

The public’s ownership of its ocean beaches started in 1913 when the Oregon Legislature, led by Governor West, established Oregon’s beaches as a public highway. For fifty years Oregonians believed they had a right to access the beach. This belief was proved incorrect in 1966 by William Hay, the owner of the Surf Sand Motel in Cannon Beach. Mr. Hay asserted his property rights and created an enclosed area with drift wood logs on the beach in front of his motel. It was later discovered the 1913 legislation only designated the wet-sand portion of the beaches as a state highway. “The interventions in 1966 prompted the Great Governor McCall to step in and make it so the public could enjoy the beach from the first dune to the sea,” said Rep. Brock Smith. “I want to thank everyone for their support in commemorating Governor McCall’s bi-partisan leadership on this critical issue that benefits all Oregonians.”

HCR 8 will be second read on Wednesday and the bill will be co-carried by Rep. Brock Smith and Rep. Gomberg (D-Otis) as early as Thursday, April 6th.

Representative David Brock Smith represents House District 1, which includes Coos, Curry, Douglas and Josephine counties.

This press release and an archive of previous press release issued by Rep. Brock Smith’s office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd.

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