

**David Brock Smith**

State Representative

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Curry, Coos, Douglas &amp; Josephine Counties

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**Committees**

Economic Development &amp; Trade–Vice Chair

Early Childhood &amp; Family Supports

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Energy &amp; Environment

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018****CONTACT: Shelia Megson****Chief of Staff****503-986-1401**[Click Here for the Bill](#)[Shelia.Megson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Shelia.Megson@oregonlegislature.gov)

## **Forests & Rural Job Innovation through Carbon Sequestration Legislation Passes Unanimously out of the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources**

SALEM – Representative David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford) continues to champion rural Oregon values for our communities and their residents with common sense legislation that strengthens our rural communities and the industries that support them. The House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources held a work session Thursday morning on HB 4109; Rep. Brock Smith’s bipartisan bicameral legislation that looks to our abundant forests for management to sequester carbon, reduce the risk of wildfire, promote rural Oregon’s economy and create healthy resilient landscapes across our public forest lands.

“I am humbled and appreciative for the support of this legislation that looks at the greenhouse gas emissions that have been sequestered by our amazing renewable forests in southwest Oregon and across our State,” said Rep. Brock Smith. As a former longtime School Board Member, Curry County Commissioner, Association of Oregon Counties and Association of O&C Counties Board Member, Rep. David Brock Smith has worked on natural resource and economic development to benefit rural Oregon for well over a decade. “Our rural communities are resilient and continue to diversify their economies,” said Rep. Brock Smith, “this while they are surrounded by the natural resources that built their communities and are meant to assist in sustaining them, yet they still have limited access to manage these resources to protect their residents and grow their economies.”

The Chetco Bar and Horse Prairie Fires burned over 200,000 acres of public and private land in Rep. Brock Smith’s District last summer alone. “With a looming cap and trade tax that does not address these critical issues and would hurt our rural residents and their industries, it is more important than ever to look at our resilient forests and their rural communities for answers,” said Rep. Brock Smith. “Rural Oregon sequesters urban Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions and the majority of emissions that do come from rural Oregon come from wildfires. These wildfires choke our most vulnerable residents and are driven by urban-centric policies that fight the very desire and ability to manage our natural resources and therefore mitigate wildfire, sequester carbon, grow our rural Oregon economies and protect the health, life and safety of our residents,” said Rep. Brock Smith.

Rep. David Brock Smith represents House District 1, which includes Curry, Coos, Douglas and Josephine counties. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Rep. David Brock Smith’s office are available on the web at: [www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd).

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