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**State Representative David Brock Smith’s Port of Port Orford Cannery Construction Bill
Passes Out of Committee with Unanimous Vote**
HB 3150 moves on to Ways and Means Committee

SALEM - A bill that will aid in providing needed funds for the construction of a new cannery building at the Port of Port Orford passed a major hurdle yesterday. After a brief public hearing House Bill 3150 was unanimously voted out of the House Economic Development and Trade Committee. The bill now moves on to the Ways and Means committee where it will be become part of the state budget negotiations.

“This is a major priority for my district. Port Orford is one of the most economic challenged communities on the Oregon coast and I am grateful to the committee members for helping move this request forward,” said Rep. Brock Smith (R- Port Orford). “This single redevelopment project will positively affect more than 1/3 of the local workforce and the community as a whole.”

House Bill 3150 would allocate \$2,100,000 of lottery dollars reserved for economic development to be used as grants or loans to the Port of Port Orford and support the redevelopment of the Cannery building at the Port. The building is in such a state of disrepair that it is no longer insurable and has been deemed “beyond repair” by engineers. NorCal Seafoods Inc, which specializes in marketing and distribution of live seafood products, is currently the only occupant of the old building. NorCal leases 8,000 square feet to operate their fresh sea water flow operations, and their live fishery is critical to the west coast.

Plans for the redevelopment create a 24,000 square foot multi-use facility capable of housing a variety of industries including sea food processing, aquaculture, ecotourism and professional office space. 10,000 square feet will be dedicated to NorCal for their expanded operations. NorCal expects to hire four new employees. “These will be living wage jobs. The cannery redevelopment project will create additional jobs through both the expansion of current businesses as well as new business start-ups that will lease space in the building. These jobs are crucial for our local economy,” said Rep. Brock Smith.

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“According to a recent survey, Port Orford is the 13th poorest zip code in Oregon. Curry County is home to the 8th most impoverished school district in the nation. We are a hard working community, and with this investment, the Legislature has an opportunity to change the economic trajectory for our southern Oregon coastal communities,” said Rep. Brock Smith.

Rep. 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.