

David Brock Smith
State Senator
District #1
Curry, Coos, & Douglas Counties
900 Court St NE S-316
Salem, OR 97301
503.986.1701



Committees
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Joint Committee Ways & Means Sub
on Public Safety

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

Press Release

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CONTACT: Shelia Megson
Chief of Staff

Sen.DavidBrockSmith@OregonLegislature.gov

Expanding Public Safety for Public Transit

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed [Senate Bill 1553](#) earlier today during their Senate Floor Session. SB 1553 will expand the existing crime of Interfering with Public Transportation to include drug use on public transit.

“Our residents and their children deserve to be safe and away from the harm of drug users in all public places, including while using our public transportation systems,” said Senator David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford).

SB 1553 is Chief Sponsored by Senators Lieber, Gorsek, Knopp, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Brock Smith and Thatcher. It will have violations be a drug-designated Class A misdemeanor, which will give law enforcement the tools they need to protect the health, life and safety of our residents and assist in providing needed treatment and services for addiction.

“As we continue the discussion of the critical need for repeal/reform of Measure 110, the bipartisan passage of SB 1553 is a perfect example of why we must recriminalize illicit drug use across the board. If recriminalization is good enough for public transit, it is good enough for public sidewalks and parks,” concluded Senator Brock Smith.

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Senator David Brock Smith represents Senate District 1, which includes Curry, Coos and Douglas Counties. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Senator David Brock Smith’s office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd