



Representative Greg Smith

Serving Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman & Wasco Counties

April 28, 2015

2015 Legislative Session Passes Midway Point

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Dear Friends,

The end of April marks the midway point for the 2015 Legislative Session. From a rural legislator's perspective I can easily say, about 95% of my time has been playing defense. However, we are obtaining a few victories, which I have noted in this newsletter. When off the House Floor, the majority of my time is spent reviewing the state budget and finding ways to save money. Each committee meeting, agency directors report to us on how they have distributed their budgets from the last biennium and their anticipated needs for the next two years.

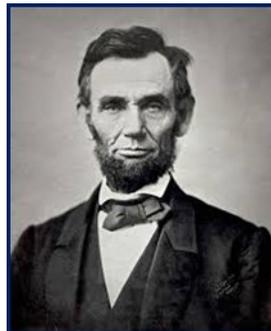


When I return home in the evening, I spend an additional 2-3 hours reading budget notes, presentations, and reports. While reading, I am asking myself: what is the best use of our tax dollars, are agencies duplicating work being done elsewhere, and how can we get a better return on our investments. My job is to advocate for the best use of our tax dollars and make sure they are funding the critical services you expect, such as public safety, education, and human services.

If you have an idea on how the state can save money, email me at rep.gregsmith@state.or.us. Thank you for allowing me to serve in Salem as your voice.

Best Regards,

Honoring President Abraham Lincoln



This month we honor our beloved Republican President Abraham Lincoln. 150 years ago on April 14th, 1865, President Lincoln was assassinated. Lincoln was a driving force during his presidency who made many advancements for our country as well as the Republican Party. Like today, Lincoln served during a time of turmoil. While many Americans questioned what the future would hold for our nation, Lincoln united a people of different backgrounds and beliefs to form a more perfect union. I am thankful for his leadership.

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

– Abraham Lincoln

“So much in life depends on our attitude. The way we choose to see things and respond to others makes all the difference.”
-President Thomas S. Monson

State Budget Committee Holds Public Hearing at Port of Morrow in Boardman



On April 11th the Joint Ways and Means Budget Committee accepted Rep. Smith's invitation to hold a public hearing in Boardman to hear from citizens in the Columbia Basin. During the hour and a half of testimony, several themes emerged... education funding, water infrastructure funding, and investments to our OSU Extension centers. Thank you to all those who gave of their Saturday afternoon to visit with us.

Representative Smith Applauds Committee Vote on Important Wolf Legislation

Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) applauds the recent vote by members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to pass [HB 3514](#), legislation regarding gray wolves.



“I am glad to see the Legislature take real meaningful action toward protecting the private property and livelihood of our livestock growers,” said Rep. Greg Smith. *“I will be a resounding yes vote on the House floor.”*

House Bill 3514 will repeal the sunset on the tax credit for compensation for loss of livestock due to wolf depredation. The bill expands the credit to include the cost of nonlethal actions undertaken by taxpayers to minimize conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs and compensation for above-normal loss to livestock attributed to wolf depredation. The legislation also eliminates the provision that disallows the tax credit if the State Fish and Wildlife Commission has removed the gray wolf from the list of endangered species and increases the maximum amount of total credits that may be certified by ODFW for any tax year. The bill passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee unanimously and now proceeds to the House Revenue Committee for consideration.

Bills Passed Last Week April 20-24, 2015

Monday House Floor Session

[HB 2938](#) - Passed 59-1
[HB 2024-A](#) - Passed 59-1
[HB 2127-A](#) - Passed 60-0
[HB 2282-A](#) - Passed 58-2
[HB 2638](#) - Passed 60-0
[HB 2934-A](#) - Passed 39-21
[HB 2964-A](#) - Passed 60-0
[HB 2972-A](#) - Passed 59-1
[HB 3016](#) - Passed 60-0

Tuesday House Floor Session

[HCR 20](#) - Passed 58-0
[HCR 17](#) - Passed 58-0
[HCR 8](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 2182](#) - Passed 59-0
[HB 3005](#) - Passed 59-0
[HB 3139-A](#) - Passed 59-0
[HB 3168-A](#) - Passed 59-0
[HB 3371-A](#) - Passed 56-3
[HB 3414-A](#) - Passed 33-26
[HB 3516-A](#) - Passed 59-0
[HB 3539](#) - Passed 59-0

Wednesday House Floor Session

[HB 2762-A](#) - Passed 47-10
[HB 2888](#) - Passed 34-24
[HB 2187-A](#) - Passed 57-1
[HB 2277-A](#) - Passed 57-0
[HB 2288-A](#) - Passed 57-0
[HCR 22](#) - Passed 57-0

Thursday House Floor Session

[HB 2375-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 2412-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 2585-A](#) - Passed 52-6
[HB 2831](#) - Passed 40-18
[HB 2987](#) - Passed 54-4
[HB 3068-A](#) - Passed 43-15
[HB 3212-A](#) - Passed 48-10
[HB 3274-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 3303-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 3317-A](#) - Passed 55-3
[HB 3329](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 3455-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 3521](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 2023-A](#) - Passed 58-0
[HB 2471-A](#) - Passed 54-4
[HB 2472-A](#) - Passed 55-2
[HB 2509-A](#) - Passed 57-1
[HB 2594-A](#) - Passed 56-2

Tough on Crime: A Vote to Extend Statute of Limitations

House Bill 2317-A represents an effort to raise the statute of limitations on certain sex crimes. Currently, Oregon law states prosecution for crimes of rape in the first degree, sodomy in the first degree, unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree, and sexual abuse in the first degree all may be commenced within 6-years after the commission of the offense, or if the victim was under 18 years of age at the time of the crime, any time before the victim attains age 30 or within 12 years after the offense is reported, whichever occurs first.

HB 2317-A increases the statute of limitations to 12-years on the above-mentioned offenses or, if the victim was a minor at the time of the offense, anytime before the victim turns 30. The bill applies to offenses committed at any point; however it does not operate to revive any prosecutions, which have previously been barred in a court of law. HB 2317-A passed the Oregon House of Representatives and will now advance to the Senate for consideration.

Leadership Hermiston



On April 14th, we rolled out the red carpet for local business and community leaders from around Hermiston who came to the Capitol to learn more about how our state government works.

Milton-Freewater's Central Middle School Visits Salem



51 students from Central Middle School in Milton-Freewater spent a day at the Capitol. During their visit, they sang in the Capitol Rotunda and were special guests of Representative Smith on the House Floor.

Smith Approves \$2.8 million for Renovation of Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles

Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) voted to approve the submission of a federal State Home Construction Grant application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the amount of \$2,805,305 for renovation of the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles.



Planned upgrades include basic maintenance and updating or replacing high traffic areas and fixtures, including flooring, lighting, new paint, wall coverings, upgrades to resident rooms and nurses stations, the remodeling of nutrition centers and rehabilitation areas, and, the replacement of furniture.

"The Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles is important to our region and our state," said Rep. Greg Smith. *"Not only is this upgrade fiscally prudent, it allows us to take better care of those that served our country and state."*

The State Home Construction Grant program requires a match rate of 35% of state funds, which equates to \$1.5 million. ODVA's match would be met with funds generated from the Veterans' Home program. ODVA does not expect the match requirement to result in any significant increase in resident rates. In addition, the federal grant provides an opportunity to recoup the majority of the costs associated with these items. The total anticipated budget is \$4.3 million.

Representative Greg Smith serves as the Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which approved the recommendation for submission unanimously.

Bills Passed Last Week

- [HB 2803-A](#) - Passed 45-6
- [HB 2919](#) - Passed 51-0
- [HB 2958](#) - Passed 50-1
- [HB 3164-A](#) - Passed 51-0
- [HB 3186](#) - Passed 46-5
- [HB 3223-A](#) - Passed 51-0
- [HB 3236-A](#) - Passed 45-6
- [HB 3242-A](#) - Passed 51-0
- [HB 3488](#) - Passed 51-0
- [HCR 26](#) - Passed 58-0
- [HJM 3](#) - Passed 48-3
- [HJM 19](#) - Passed 51-0
- [SB 85](#) - Passed 49-2