



Representative Greg Smith

Serving Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman & Wasco Counties

February 24, 2015

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Stay Informed & Engaged In the Legislative Session



Electronic Alerts

Sign up to receive email or text message updates when the status of your bill(s) change.



OLIS

Track legislation, agendas, or search the daily schedule of the Legislature.

First Month of Session...

The first month of the 2015 Legislative Session is coming to a close. With over 1,700 bills introduced and the crisis that played out in the Governor's Office, it can easily be called, a fast and curious beginning.

This session, I will be continuing my roles on the state budget committees. Although this takes me out of some of the policy discussions, I have always found taking care of Eastern Oregon through crafting an effective and fair state budget to be rewarding.



It is my hope that these newsletters serve as an outlet for you to stay informed about what is going on in Salem and throughout the district. In this newsletter, you will find information on proposed legislation, how to stay engaged, recent Capitol visits and district events.

I hope that if you have a question or want to share your thoughts, you would contact me at (503) 986-1457, or at rep.gregsmith@state.or.us. If you are in Salem, remember my door is always open!

Best Regards,

Representative Greg Smith
District 57

Local Leadership Helps Guide Statewide Organizations



Eastern Oregon continues to provide statewide leadership. This year, Associated Oregon Counties (AOC) will be led by two Eastern Oregon leaders. **Sherman County Judge Gary Thompson** will serve as President, and **Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens** will serve as Vice-President. AOC performs a wide variety of services for Oregon counties, including advocacy within the Oregon Legislature, and gathering and distributing information on current trends, issues and challenges. Read more about AOC at www.aocweb.org.

Congratulations to the Heppner Mustangs



Congratulations to **John Propheter** and **Ryan Smith** on their wrestling district championship titles! They will compete at the state championships in Portland on Friday.

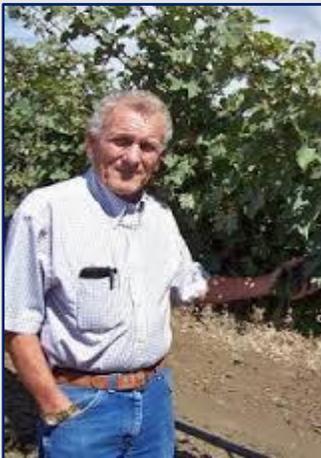


Congratulations to the **Heppner Mustang Boys Basketball** on their 2nd place finish at the Columbia Basin Conference District Tournament! The Mustangs will host Faith Bible High School in the first round of the OSA State Championships on Friday, February 27th, at 6:00 pm.



Congratulations to the **Heppner VEX Robotics** team for winning first place at the robotics competition in Redmond last weekend!

Remembering a great man...Chet Prior



Named a "staple in the community", Chet Prior passed away this month. Chet was always first to the table to help the Columbia Basin grow and develop. He has been instrumental in the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center, accessing more water from the Columbia River for local farmers and much more. His passion and charity will be missed and I was honored to have him as a friend.

A Celebration of Life

A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395, Hermiston, with a luncheon to follow.

Memorials may be made to The Salvation Army or to Agape House, P.O. Box 1723, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Access to Justice in Rural Oregon



Judges from Sherman, Wheeler, Malheur and Linn Counties join with Rep. Smith to meet with legislators to discuss proposed legislation that would affect access to justice in rural Oregon. Proud to share... a solution was reached!

Nattalie Gray Opens House Floor Session



Nattalie Gray of Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston joined us to open the House Floor Session by performing "God Bless the USA." Great job Nattalie!

Visiting Dufur



Right before session, it was a pleasure to visit the community of Dufur. A special thanks to Dufur Mayor-Elect Robert Wallace & Superintendent Henderson for putting together the meetings. It was great to receive updates and their "priorities" list. Truly a group of dedicated citizens and elected officials! My day also included a visit to the new volunteer fire/ambulance station.

Bad Bill Watch

✗ **Carbon Tax (SB 324-A)**

Makes adoption of rules by DEQ on low carbon fuel standards mandatory. Requires standards to reduce average amount of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of fuel energy of fuels by 10% below 2010 levels by 2015. The bill passed the Senate on a party line vote. | *Current Status: House Committee on Energy and Environment*

✗ **Mandatory Paid Sick Leave (HB 2005)**

Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees. In the current version of the bill, seasonal employees in agriculture are not exempt. | *Current Status: House Committee on Business and Labor*

✗ **Minimum Wage (SB 327)**

Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps through 2017. | *Current Status: Senate Committee on Workforce*

✗ **Minimum Wage (SB 597)**

Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps to \$13.50 per hour by 2017. | *Current Status: Senate Committee on Workforce*

✗ **Minimum Wage (SB 610)**

Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps to \$15 per hour by 2018. | *Current Status: Senate Committee on Workforce*

✗ **Forced Voter Registration (HB 2177)**

Forces voter registration through the DMV. The bill passed the House on a party-line vote. | *Current Status: Senate President's Desk*

2015 Legislative Committee Assignments



- Joint Ways and Means Committee, Co-Vice Chair
- Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government, Co-Chair
- Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
- House Republican Budget Caucus, Chair
- Legislative Committee on Indian Services
- Hanford Cleanup Board

2015 Legislative Committee Assignments



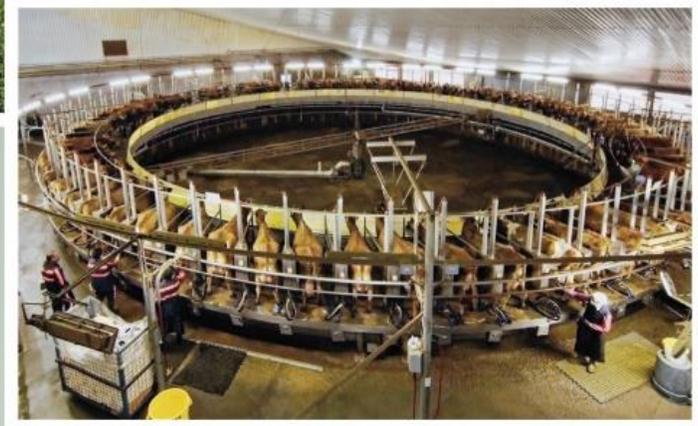
Recently, I was able to visit with a colleague of mine, Representative Lew Frederick. Rep. Frederick's district includes the Lloyd Center in downtown Portland and is the smallest house district in the state. It takes him approximately 1 hour to walk across it. On the other hand, our district is one of the largest, is in rural Oregon and takes 3-4 hours to drive across. While it is easy to find differences, our districts still have similar issues facing them. There is always common ground to be found. A valuable political reminder.

In Case You Missed It...District Facilities Give Boost to Economy

In case you missed this great article by Northeast Oregon Now, [here is a link](#). With five kids of my own, I have always been a fan of school athletics and their positive effects on our children. We also appreciate the efforts our school programs make to our communities. Thank you to all our House District 57...and Eastern Oregon school districts.



"A new report shows that the Hermiston School District generated over \$7.3 million in economic impact to Umatilla County...as a result of the events hosted across the district during the 2013-14 school year." – Article by Northeast Oregon Now



Home buying Incentive

A \$5,000 incentive is available to anyone who is purchasing a primary residence in the 97818 zip code through the Boardman Community Development Association.

Contact Jill Parker at (541) 481-3445 for more information.

Agriculture & Energy

Job Fair

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SAGE Center

101 Olson Road

Boardman, OR

*For more information go to the job fair page at www.visitsage.com
or call (541) 481-7243.*

