



July 6, 2015

# Representative Greg Smith

*Serving Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman & Wasco Counties*

## Follow Rep. Smith



## Contact Rep. Smith

Salem Office  
900 Court St. NE, H-482  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-1457  
[rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us)

District Office  
P.O. Box 215  
Heppner, OR 97836  
Phone: (541) 676-5154  
Fax: (541) 676-5989  
[rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us)

## 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.

## 2015 Legislative Session Adjourns... ...Water is Coming to Eastern Oregon!

The 2015 Legislative Session has adjourned. Among the many successes for House District 57, was the allocation of \$32 million to fund water projects in the Columbia Basin. This will give our private sector employers the opportunity to use one of our greatest natural resources, the Columbia River, to generate over \$1 billion of new economic development throughout the region.



I have worked for many years on this project along side Representative Bob Jenson and Senator David Nelson. Senator Bill Hansell has been a great cheerleader. During the session, it was a pleasure to work with House and Senate Leadership, our new Governor, the Port of Morrow, Port of Umatilla and the Northeast Oregon Water Association to achieve this win for the region.

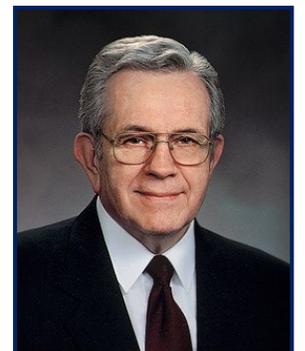
In addition to water project funding, we achieved other legislative successes for our region, which you can read about in the rest of this newsletter. It has been an honor serving as your voice in Salem during the 2015 Legislative Session.

During the interim, you can contact me at our district office in Heppner. Our phone number is 541-676-5154, and our email is [rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us).

Best Regards,

Representative Greg Smith  
District57

*"Our whole social order could self-destruct over the obsession with freedom disconnected from responsibility; where choice is imagined to be somehow independent of consequences."  
-Boyd K. Packer*



## 2015 Legislative Session Wins



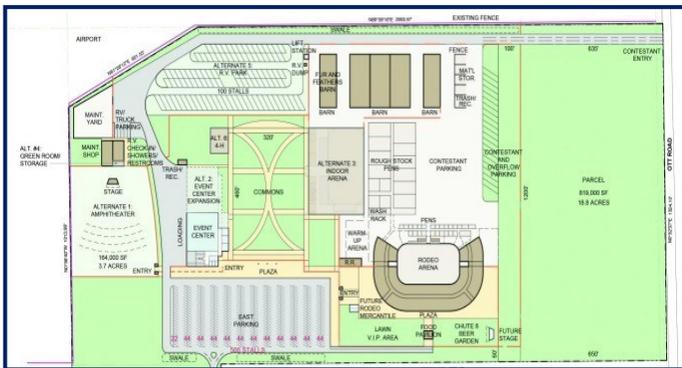
### ***Smith Brings Home \$32 Million: Fully Funds the Umatilla Basin Project***

Representative Smith worked closely with the House/Senate leadership and the Governor to help designate **\$32 million of funding for water projects**. This funding will be allocated towards \$21 million of loans and \$11 million of grants. Local irrigators, among others, feel optimistic that this funding will help complete planned water projects in the Columbia Basin. **This will allow local irrigators to access existing unused water on the Columbia River.**



### ***\$1.5 Million for Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center (EOTEC)***

Representative Smith secured \$1.5 million of capital construction funds for the continued development of the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center (EOTEC). This is in addition to \$6 million Rep. Smith was able to obtain during previous legislative sessions. EOTEC will include a new rodeo



facility, event center, 4-H center, and serve as the Umatilla County Fairgrounds beginning in 2016.



### ***\$1.6 Million for Early Childhood Learning Center at the Port of Morrow***

Voters of Morrow and Umatilla Counties recently passed a bond levy for Blue Mountain Community College allocating \$2.5 million to the creation of a workforce training center at the Port of Morrow. Representative Smith secured an additional \$1.6 million to add an early childhood learning center at the workforce training facility. As employees develop skills, which will prepare them for success, their children receive education that will prepare them to have academic success in the classroom.

## **Oregon House Unanimously Passes Critical Relief Program For Wildfire Victims**

### ***House Bill 3148-A Creates Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account***



The Oregon House of Representatives today unanimously passed House Bill 3148-A, legislation that seeks to provide critical relief to low-income wildfire victims through the creation of the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Chief sponsored by House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte), the bipartisan measure serves as an additional resource for Oregon families that lose their homes or housing due to a wildfire.

Under HB 3148-A, the Housing and Community Services Department shall administer the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account to assist households of lower income that suffer a loss of housing due to a wildfire. The department shall provide assistance from the account as grants in the amount of \$5,000 each. As applies to this relief account, “households of lower income” means persons or families residing in the state whose federal adjusted gross income for the tax year preceding the year in which a loss of housing due to a wildfire does not exceed 75 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. HB 3148-A passed the House 57-0.



### **Trophy Trout Pilot Program at the Willow Creek Reservoir**

Representative Smith and ODFW came together during the legislative session to discuss the formation of a Trophy Trout Pilot Program that would select a handful of reservoirs to stock with trophy size trout. ODFW will run ads in their Fishing & Hunting magazine throughout the state encouraging Oregonians to travel to select Eastern Oregon reservoirs. The goal is to help create economic development opportunities for regions that rely heavily on hunting and fishing tourism.



### **Wrestling Returns to Eastern Oregon University**

Wrestling will soon be returning to Eastern Oregon University thanks to the help of Representative Greg Smith. During the Legislative Session, Rep. Smith successfully obtained \$300,000 of funding for this project. "Eastern Oregon is home to many successful wrestling programs," said Smith. "Restoring a college wrestling program at Eastern Oregon University will give youth the opportunity to remain in Eastern Oregon."



### **Small Scale Resort Development in Columbia Basin**

Rep. Smith helped move HB 3431-B through both the Capital Construction Subcommittee and Joint Ways and Means Committee. HB 3431-B allows three additional years for the owner of the Metolius resort site to apply to the county for approval of small-scale recreation community, and extends the opportunity for a small-scale recreation community to Clatsop, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, and Wheeler Counties.

## **Representative Greg Smith Appointed to Legislative Emergency Board**

Salem – Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) has been appointed by House Speaker Tina Kotek to serve on the Oregon Legislature Emergency Board. The Emergency Board handles emergency funding requests, makes minor adjustments to state budgets and maintains oversight over spending practices when the Legislature is not in session.



"I am honored to have been selected to serve on the Emergency Board," said Rep. Smith. "I look forward to working with my legislative colleagues throughout the interim to ensure our state funds are being handled in the most transparent and accountable manner possible."

## **County Fair Season is Upon Us...**

**...Mark Your Calendars!**



Umatilla County  
Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>



Wasco County  
Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>



Morrow County  
Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sherman County  
Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>



Oregon State Fair  
August 28<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>



### **CTE Funding & Policy**

Representative Smith took the lead in helping Oregon make a lasting commitment to Career Technical Education (CTE). Leading a large work group of public and private sectors, state agencies and others, Rep. Smith helped develop HB 3072, which provides authority for many of the new CTE and STEM related programs that are funded in the Department of Education's budget. In addition, the Legislature voted to pass HB 5016, which invests \$35 million for CTE and STEM.



### **Smith and Hansell Shepherd Milton-Freewater Annexation Bill**

SB 121-A, a priority bill for the City of Milton-Freewater was successfully guided through the House of Representatives after clearing the Senate. This bill would help Milton-Freewater find alternative solutions other than forced annexation of properties.



Without SB 121-A, the city was looking at being forced to pay \$15 million to run all sewer and water pipes to an area outside of their city limits.



### **Smith Votes to Extend Statute of Limitations on Sex Crimes**

At the request of a constituent, Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) helped pass HB 2317-A, a bill that will raise the statute of limitations on certain sex crimes from 6 to 12 years. In addition, if the victim was a minor at the time of the offense, they can report the crime any time before the victim turns 30.



### **Smith Moves Mining Bill Through House and Senate**

Rep. Smith, along with Rep. Cliff Bentz, crafted HB 3089, which directs the DOGAMI to conduct a study of the mineral resource potential of Eastern and Southern Oregon Counties, and then to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly. It also asks DOGAMI to post the report on its website thus making information regarding Eastern Oregon's mineral resources widely available. A positive mining bill in Oregon!

## **How to Contact Representative Greg Smith During the Legislative Interim**



Heppner District Office  
P.O. Box 215  
Heppner, OR 97836  
Phone: 541-676-5154

Email: [rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us)

**DEFEATED**

HJM 15 – Would require waters behind The Dalles Dam to be lowered to make Celilo Falls visible.

**DEFEATED**

HB 3555 – Suspends kicker tax returns to individuals and deposits money in the state budget.

