



Representative Greg Smith

Proudly Serving Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman and Portions of Wasco Counties



June Legislative Newsletter

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Session Stats to Date

Senate Legislation

Introduced - 972
Passed the Senate - 250

House Legislation

Introduced - 1,690
Passed the House - 388

Total Legislation

Introduced - 2,662

House Consumer Protection & Government Efficiency

Referred - 163
Voted Out - 79

Joint Ways and Means

Referred - 398
Voted Out - 88

Moving Budgets Forward While Focus Remains on Strengthening State's Economic Foundation

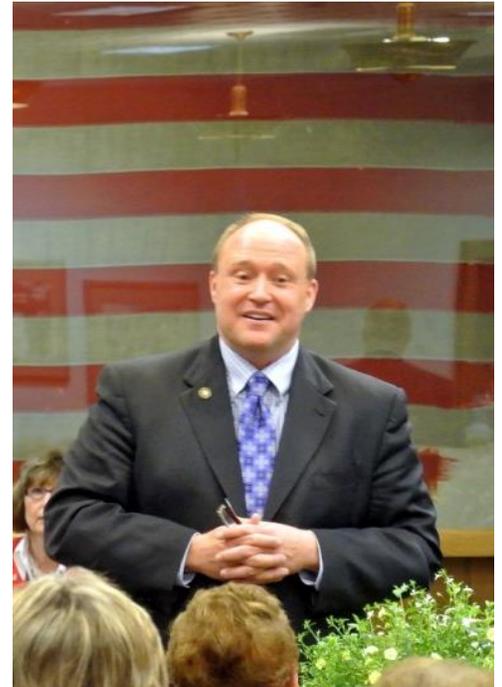
Recently, the final pieces of the budget writing puzzle have been delivered in the form of the May Revenue Forecast. The favorable forecast provided the needed information to develop a balanced budget for Oregonians.

Up through the May Forecast, the House of Representatives passed only a few budgets. Since the forecast, we have passed over 45 budgets out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Many may not know, but Oregon budgets on two-year cycles called bienniums. By State Constitution, Oregon must have a balanced budget...we are not Congress.

For this to occur, the Legislature is presented with quarterly revenue forecasts. These forecasts share the State's current and projected revenue, job creation and the state's overall economic vitality. This information allows us to craft or adjust agency budgets.

Although the May Revenue Forecast numbers were welcoming compared to the past few years, Oregon's economy is still fragile. With this in mind, we are moving budgets forward without taking the focus off of Oregon's economic foundations. These include; funding education, protecting services to Oregonians on fixed incomes and finding ways to provide tax certainty and relief to small businesses.



May Revenue Forecast

- Current 2011-13 biennium revenue is up \$115 million.
- The 2013-15 biennium revenue projections are up \$156 million.
- Total additional revenue projections equal \$271 million.
 - Corporate Kicker likely to kick with \$20 million.

Smith Helps Umatilla County, Umatilla Electric Cooperative Priority Bills Pass

House Bill 2203-A, sponsored by Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) and listed as a priority by Umatilla County and Umatilla Electric Cooperative, passed the Oregon House and Senate last week with unanimous support.



Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens and Rep. Smith testify on HB 2203.

House Bill 2203 requires a person filing a permit with the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to build transmission lines to notify the Public Utility Commission (PUC) the name and contact information for the persons responsible for maintenance and operation of those transmission lines.

The transmission lines that tie generation facilities to the electrical grid are called “gen-tie lines.” Often these lines can be sold, however, the ownership and contact information for emergencies are not required to be reported.

“The problem this bill seeks to fix is to determine who is responsible for these lines,” said Rep. Smith. “This minor uncertainty can become a major issue in the event the lines become damaged or downed. We do not want to put our local government or electric cooperatives in these dangerous positions.”

Republican Women’s Day at the Capitol



Rep. Smith visits with Laura Skeen-Cruz of the Greater Hermiston Area Republican Women.

The month of May hosted one of my favorite days during the legislative session; Republican Women’s Day.

Each legislative session, the Oregon Federation of Republican Women host a day at the State Capitol for its membership. This

year it was great to visit with Laura Skeen-Cruz from the Greater Hermiston Area Republican Women. Mary Anne Low also was in attendance representing the Round-Up Republican Women from the Pendleton area. Thank you ladies for all you do!

House District 57 Facts

6/10

Six of Oregon’s top ten largest electricity generators are located in House District 57.

Top Ten Electricity Generators in Oregon

1. John Day Dam (Hydro)*
2. The Dalles Dam (Hydro)*
3. Bonneville Dam (Hydro)
4. McNary Dam (Hydro)*
5. Hermiston Power Partnership *
6. Boardman PGE Plant*
7. Beaver PGE Plant
8. Klamath Cogeneration Plant
9. Hermiston Generating Plant*
10. Biglow Canyon Wind Farm

Industry

District 57 is home to the fastest growing economy in Eastern Oregon. The area’s success is due to strong port districts, transportation infrastructure and business friendly local government.

The Port of Morrow is Oregon’s second largest port.

In 2013, Hermiston became Eastern Oregon’s largest community.

Education

Historically, District 57 has made education funding a top priority. Within the last month, Milton-Freewater passed a school levy to invest in their schools.

District 57 includes:

- 13 High Schools
- 2 Community Colleges
- Eastern Oregon University

District 57 understands investing in education is an economic foundation.

SAGE Center Opens in Boardman, Oregon

On May 31st the Sustainable Agriculture and Energy (SAGE) Center in Boardman held its Grand Opening.

The [SAGE Center](#) is an interactive visitor center that highlights sustainable agriculture and energy. Developed by the Port of Morrow, the SAGE Center will give visitors a unique opportunity to learn about the technology that takes place locally within the Port of Morrow and Columbia River Basin.

Representative Smith worked with the Port of Morrow to secure a large allocation of capital construction dollars during the 2011 Legislative Session.

Visitors can find out where products from Morrow County are shipped all over the world, see interactive GPS technology farmers currently use, try the SAGE Center's own hot air balloon experience and learn how a potato gets from the field to your table.



Karen Pettigrew (Boardman City Manager), Larry Lindsay (Port of Morrow Commissioner), & Corrine Lindsay celebrate the Grand Opening of the SAGE Center.



Bryan Wolfe (Hermiston) and Gary Neal (General Manager, Port of Morrow) welcome over 400 to the Grand Opening of the SAGE Center.

Smith Continues Work on Protecting and Building Rural Health Care

Representative Greg Smith joins Oregon Health & Science University in sponsoring Senate Bill 2: Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative.



OHSU has worked hard to improve health care in rural Oregon. One way Representative Smith and OHSU have worked together to achieve this goal is supporting the education of health providers. Two critical challenges exist when educating health providers for the state. (1) the high cost of tuition for students and (2) mal-distribution of providers throughout the state. Both affect rural Oregon strongly.

Senate Bill 2 addressing the shortage of health care professionals in Oregon's underserved and rural communities through the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative. This program will pay the entire cost of tuition and fees for (up to) 40 students in exchange for their commitment to work after graduation in Oregon's underserved or rural communities. Because research shows that students who are from a rural area are six times more likely to want to return to that area, the program would give preference to Oregon students who are first generation students and from one of the six regional universities in Oregon including Eastern Oregon University. (SB 2 recently passed out of the Education Subcommittee and has moved forward to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.)

Thank You Card

Greg,

I can't thank you enough for your support of fairs. The funding approved this morning will make an important difference to kids and rural communities in all parts of the state, as you well know.

Your leadership in producing this result can't be understated. Fairs in Oregon are very fortunate to have you as an advocate.

*John H. McCulley
Oregon Fairs Association*



Congratulations to House District 57 Graduates!!!

McLoughlin High School
Umatilla High School
Hermiston High School
Hermiston Christian Academy
Stanfield High School
Riverside High School
Ione High School

Heppner High School
Irrigon High School
Sherman County High School
Condon High School
Dufur High School
Arlington High School



Alex Smith Joins Capitol Office Team



If you are calling, or visiting the Capitol Office for House District 57, you might see a new addition to the team; Alex Smith.

Alex recently graduated from Heppner High School and has taken on the task of serving the constituents of District 57.

After session, Alex is planning to serve a two year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Texas Dallas Mission.

We are proud of Alex and his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

Wolf Bill Passes Oregon House of Representatives

[House Bill 3452-B](#), sponsored by Representative Bob Jenson (R-Pendleton), Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) and Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena), passed the House of Representatives this week on at 57 to 2 vote.

House Bill 3452-B specifically allows a person who owns or lawfully occupies land may take a gray wolf without a permit if;

- (1) Person has not used bait to attract gray wolves or taken other intentional action to attract wolves other than engaging in regular or ordinary livestock management practices.
- (2) Taking is allowed under federal Endangered Species Act, and
- (3) Gray wolves are caught in act of biting, wounding, or killing livestock or working dogs or caught in the act of chasing livestock or working dogs.

A big applause is due to Representative Jenson for shepherding this bill. He is good...very good!



Sherriff's Day at the Capitol

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack visits with Representative Greg Smith.



Rep. Smith and Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens

Rep. Smith continues to work closely with county commissioners across the district to build the Columbia River Basin.



Tribal Government Day

Rep. Smith visits with Debra Croswell from the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation about the importance of "First Foods."