



Representative Greg Smith

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

October 2013 Newsletter

Contact Rep. Smith

District Office
P.O. Box 219
Heppner, OR 97836
Phone: (541) 676-5154
rep.gregsmith@state.or.us

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The Harlem Ambassadors are Coming to District 57!



Harlem style comedy basketball featuring high-flying slam dunks, games with the kids and hilarious comedy! There will be a complimentary autograph session with the ambassadors after the games.

Condon

November 11th @ 7pm
Condon High School
For more information call (541) 384-2441.

Milton-Freewater

November 14th @ 7pm
McLoughlin High School
For more information call (509) 526-1490.

House District 57...Continuing to Impress

We can definitely tell that summer weather in the Columbia River Basin has passed. Over the past few weeks I have been thinking about all the events of the past summer months. As I have attended county fairs, parades, open houses, sports venues and even a special legislative session, I am constantly reminded of the many great communities and citizens House District 57 has.

In this newsletter, I have included several legislative updates, along with several district events which I believe demonstrate the great work done by our communities.

I hope you will take a moment to review it. Thank you again for the honor to represent you in Salem.

Best Regards,

Representative Greg Smith
District 57



Rep. Greg Smith speaking at the grand opening of Kennison Field.



Know Your Elected Officials

United States Congress

Washington D.C.

Senator Ron Wyden

105 Fir St., Ste. 201
La Grande, OR 97850
Phone: (541) 962-7691

Senator Jeff Merkley

310 SE Second St., Ste. 105
Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone: (541) 278-1129

Representative Greg Walden

1211 Washington Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850
Phone: (541) 624-2400

Oregon State Legislature

Salem, Oregon

Senator Bill Hansell

900 Court St. NE, S-423
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 986-1729

Representative Greg Smith

P.O. Box 219
Heppner, OR 97836
Phone: (541) 676-5154

Smith Helps Pass Small Business Tax Relief Act

During the 2013 Special Session, Representative Greg Smith helped pass House Bill 3601-A, the Small Business Tax Relief Act.

This bill provided Oregon's small businesses with one of the largest business tax cuts in state history. The measure reduces taxes for Oregon businesses which file a Schedule E, which includes many LLCs, S-Corps, LLPs and partnerships. These companies, with an active income and who hire at least one full-time employee, will have their taxes reduced to 7%.

Despite the fact that small businesses are at the heart of Oregon's economy, there has never been a state tax cut specifically targeted at granting relief for small businesses. Under the current system, small businesses are taxed at a higher rate than so-call "big business." The top corporate rate prior to the bill's passage was 7.6%, while the small business rate was 9.9%. In other words, a mom and pop operation in Oregon faced a higher tax rate than a Fortune 500 company. This tax relief bill will bring greater fairness to the system.

The Small Business Tax Relief Act serves as an inherent incentive for Oregon's small businesses to hire employees when they might be on the edge of doing so and sends a strong message that Oregon values small business.

Specific Rates of the Act would be as followed: \$0 - \$250,000 – 7%; \$250,000 - \$500,000 – 7.2%; \$500,000 - \$71 million– 7.6%; \$1 million - \$2.5 million – 8%; \$2.5 million - \$5 million – 9%; \$5+ million – 9.9%

Summary of the Small Business Tax Relief Act (HB 3601-A)

- Reduces taxes for Oregon businesses which file a Schedule E, which include many LLCs, S-Corps, LLPs and partnerships.
- The Act reduces the tax rate to as low as 7%, down from the current 9.9%, on the first \$250,000 dollars of income for small businesses.

Honoring Students in Echo, Hermiston, Stanfield and Umatilla



(Left) Rep Smith handing each student a certificate of excellence. (Right) Rep. Smith sharing thoughts with parents, students and educators from Umatilla, Echo, Hermiston and Stanfield school districts.

Four times a year, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce hosts one of the best events within House District 57, the "Breakfast of Champions." Sponsored by local businesses, Representative Smith joins Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann, school superintendents, teachers, school board members and parents to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students in the area's private and public school districts.

Two children from each school are chosen by local educators to be recognized. It is remarkable to hear each teacher share their reasons for selecting students. Some are chosen for academics, other for manners and some because of the great improvement shown over the year.

The City of Hermiston...On the Map

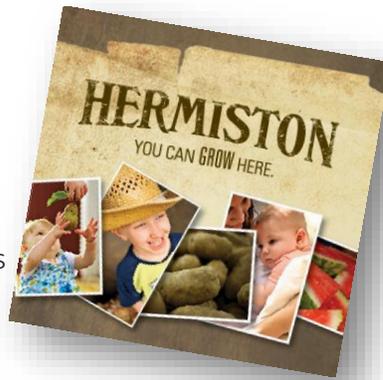
Starting from 78 miles out along Interstate 84, travelers will now see signs reflecting the distance to Hermiston. Previously, the only signs motorists saw while heading east on I-84 appeared two



miles before the turn off. The City of Hermiston and Oregon Dept. of Transportation have now installed four additional signs at mile markers 111, 125, 138 and 149. These signs now alert motorists to visit Eastern Oregon's largest city.

Hermiston Facts & Figures

- Hermiston is Eastern Oregon's largest city. Its population has grown by more than 40% over the past 20 years and now has more than 17,000 residents within the city limits and more than 36,000 people living within 10 miles of the city center.
- Hermiston provides 33% of all jobs for 85,315 residents in the Umatilla-Morrow County area from within a 14 square mile area.
- Highway 395 runs through downtown Hermiston, with a daily traffic count of over 14,000 ADT.



Rep. Smith with Mike Kay, Athletic/Activities Director for Hermiston High School.



Rep. Greg Smith with Susie & Kurt Bendixsen (Hermiston) at the Umatilla County Fair Parade.

Smith Invests in Education, Mental Health Programs and Programs for the Elderly and Disabled

Another piece of legislation Representative Smith helped pass during this month's special session was House Bill 5101, the Stability for Schools and Seniors Act.

This Act invests \$100 million of additional funding for K-12 education that can be used by local school districts to hire teachers, reduce class sizes and add back school days. The funding bill also includes \$10 million for Oregon's Project Independence and millions more to help rural seniors with their transportation needs. \$20 million will also be allocated to Oregon Health Authority for mental health services through increasing the state's tobacco tax.

Details of the Stability for Schools and Seniors Act (HB 5101)

- \$100 million for the State School Fund, giving local school district the opportunity to hire more teachers and add school days to the calendar.
- \$25 million to the Oregon University System and \$15 million to the Community College Support Fund to help freeze or slow the tuition increases our university and community college students are facing over the next two years.
- Dedicates the tobacco tax increase, \$20 million, to help increase funding for the State's mental health programs.
- \$10 million for Oregon Project independence.
- \$5 million for elderly and disabled transit programs.
- \$25 million for various other senior programs.

Governor & Rep. Smith Named Co-Chairs on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Task Force



SALEM- Governor John Kitzhaber, MD and Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) have been named Co-Chairs on the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Task Force.

This task force is charged to evaluate how the current Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard law is functioning in Oregon's marketplace and decide whether or not any updates are needed to meet the State's renewable energy goal.

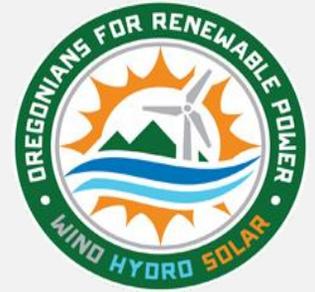
Originally enacted in 2007 through Senate Bill 838, the Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires Oregon utilities to deliver a percentage of their electricity from new renewable resources by 2025.

Rep. Smith and Rep. Jenson visit with citizens at the State Capitol.

One major issue Rep. Smith hopes to address, is why the State of Oregon does not recognize hydropower generated by the Columbia River Dams as renewable energy. Currently utilities are not allowed to use hydropower generated by these dams to be calculated toward the RPS.

Did You Know?

Oregon does not consider the hydropower produced by the Columbia River Dams as renewable.



These dams are the fourth largest electric generators in the state.

Currently a group by the name of "Hydro Power as Renewable Energy" is gathering signatures for a ballot measure in November 2014. It would simply recognize all hydroelectric power as renewable energy under the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) law. This law requires utilities in Oregon to purchase a specific amount of their energy from renewable resources.

To find out more about this citizen initiative visit their website at www.HydroPetition.com.

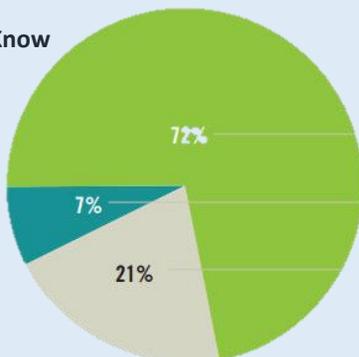
Northwest RiverPartners

For salmon, our economy and quality of life

Northwest citizens overwhelmingly view hydropower as a clean, renewable energy resource.

Is electricity generated by hydropower from dams a renewable energy source?

72% - Yes
7% - No
21% - Don't Know



[Northwest RiverPartners](#) based in Portland, is an alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and businesses which promote the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and salmon recovery policies based on sound science.

Recently, Northwest RiverPartners conducted a poll of Northwest citizens regarding their feelings of Hydropower. **The results found Northwest citizens overwhelmingly view hydropower as a clean, renewable energy resource.**

Below are a few of the results found by the poll. [Click here to view the full polling results.](#)

Other Findings Include:

- 67% believe the state legislature and Congress should declare Hydropower a renewable resource.
- Hydropower has the most public support with 47% identifying it as the region's most practical resource to rely on to meet energy needs. Wind energy comes in a distant second at 19%, and solar comes in at third with 8%.