



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla,
& Morrow Counties*

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Smith Gets Prestigious Award from Electric Cooperatives

(Salem) "I'm so honored and humbled to get this recognition from the association," said [State Representative Greg Smith](#) (R-Heppner) after being named the 2007 Cooperator of the Year. The presentation was made during the annual conference of the [Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#) in Tigard today.

"Representative Smith showed incredible courage in the 2007 Legislative Session in protecting the interests of electricity ratepayers against incredible pressure," said Association Executive Director Sandy Flicker. Renewable energy and water resource policies were especially challenging for lawmakers this year.

During the 2007 Session, Smith was a member of the House Energy Committee and currently serves on the House Committee on Energy and Environment. Of particular note was [Senate Bill 838](#) which requires electric utilities to get 25% of their electricity from renewable resources by the year 2025. Representative [Smith was successful in getting an amendment](#) which calls for small electric utilities to meet a 10% standard.

Another area of concern involved the [Oasis Project](#) which would have provided more water from the Columbia River for agriculture, irrigation and other critical uses in Eastern Oregon. Smith was instrumental in trying to bring [House Bill 3525](#) to the House Floor for a vote. The legislation would have helped create more than 7,000 new jobs and generate over \$200 million into the local economy. Although Smith got the bill passed by the House it died in the Senate. "We are hopeful the [Oasis Project can be revisited during the Special Legislative Session in February 2008](#)," noted Smith. Senator Dave Nelson (R-Pendleton) has filed a bill for February on this issue.

The Association gives out the Cooperator of the Year award to elected officials who go above and beyond the call of duty to support electric cooperatives. 17 electric co-ops are members of the association including the [Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative](#) in Heppner, the [Umatilla Electric Cooperative](#) in Hermiston, and the [Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative](#) in Baker City. All three provide service to thousands of Oregon families in Smith's legislative district.

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