



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

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More OSP Troopers Budgeted by Legislative E-Board & Rep Smith Leads Effort to Fund Sex Offender Web Site

(Salem) "It is critical that we keep as many state police troopers on the road as possible," said State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) today after he voted to support a [\\$600,000 funding request](#) at the [Legislative Emergency Funding Board](#). Smith also presented the Board with a plan to help get a [new statewide sex offender web site](#) up and running by July 1st this year. Smith is a member of the E-Board's General Government Subcommittee which played a key role in developing both funding issues.

The first appropriation allows [Oregon State Police](#) (OSP) to [hire new evidence technicians](#) freeing up sworn police officers in the field. Smith noted, "it doesn't make sense to have highly trained troopers processing evidence in the field when other staff which could handle those duties. This way more troopers can return to the road."

"These troopers are essential to public safety, especially in Eastern Oregon where police are few and far between. Hundreds of miles of roadway are currently going without any patrols at times," explained Smith. The E-board also agreed to consider adding 10 new trooper positions when they meet again in April.

In addition to the new technicians for evidence, a \$40,000 proposal for OSP technical staff was also approved to help build a [new sex offender registry](#). Last year the legislature approved [House Bill 3486](#), requiring state police to establish a site for the public to access information about the most predatory offenders.

"These are the worst of the worst offenders," said Smith, "everyone has a right to know whether one of these creeps is living in their neighborhood. We have a right to protect our children." There are currently 17,000 registered sex offenders in Oregon. OSP estimates up to 600 would be posted on the new site. The federal government established a [national registry](#) last year and Oregon is one of only two states which are currently not linked to that new federal database.

Representative Smith recognizes there are several issues facing OSP which are currently being reviewed such as the number of vacant positions, the ability to train enough recruits to fill vacancies, and other management problems. He emphasized, "legislative leaders are committed to putting OSP manpower resources where they're needed most. Since the legislature approved the agency's budget last summer there have been no trooper layoffs."

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