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## *State Representative Greg Smith*

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*House District 57*

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla &  
Morrow Counties*

*News Release:*

*February 3, 2006*

### ***New Economic Development Director Good For Rural Oregon***

(Salem) "Bob Repine will be a great asset to our economic development efforts in Eastern Oregon," said State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner). [Governor Kulongoski appointed Repine](#) to be the new Director for the [Oregon Economic and Community Development Department \(OECDD\)](#) this week.

In the 1970's and 80's Repine operated small businesses in residential and commercial construction in Grants Pass. He was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1988 and in 1998 he was appointed by Governor Kitzhaber to head up the [State Housing and Community Services Department](#) where he has served for the past eight years.

Repine embraces the values of living in a rural community. "We were always building platforms for parade events, painting houses for neighbors, or serving on local organizations trying to improve the quality of life for all citizens," explained Repine. "It gets in your blood when you 'believe' and you never forget those life changing experiences. I will take those same deep rooted values and share them at OECDD."

Repine was the Co-Chair for the Ways and Means Committee when he was in the House of Representatives. Smith is Chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government, Transportation and Economic Development. He is also the Vice-Chair of the House Interim Committee on Economic Development. Smith's private sector experience is in small business development and advising companies on how to work with government.

"Oregon is a whole state, not a rural and urban state. Each urban area has a rural life near the edge of its boundary and every rural area has urban life at its border. They are not mutually exclusive but mutually inclusive," noted Repine. "I want to work with legislators such as Greg Smith to keep building that inclusive theme. Greg has been a vocal advocate for rural Oregon and the economic opportunities when presented. I look forward to working with him and others that want a strong state not a divided state."

Smith pointed out, "Bob is one of the best state agency administrators I've had the opportunity to work with on issues. He takes time to understand problems facing a community and suggests positive solutions," Smith added, "I am excited to have Bob at the helm at our economic development agency. He will help keep Oregon's economy on the right course."

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