



**State Representative Greg Smith  
House District 57  
Morrow, Umatilla, Union, & Wallowa Counties**

**State Representative Greg Smith Remarks~ Floor of the Oregon House  
House Bill 5011 ~ Budget for the Columbia River Gorge Commission**

**The Motion Failed 22 Yes, 37 No**

**March 7, 2007**

**Fund Children First**

“Mister Speaker, I move that House Bill 5011 be re-referred to the committee on ways and means.

Colleagues, I rise today with complete and thorough respect for each and every one of you, and today perhaps I rise alone on this motion to refer.

How dare this House of Representatives of the citizens of the state of Oregon place greater value on the Columbia River Gorge Commission than the educational needs of our children. Providing predictability and stability for our schools should be at the top of our agenda, but it's not. Funding a bureaucracy is more important than funding our children first.

Colleagues, please join me in this symbolic gesture by stating today, with your vote, that the education of our kids is of utmost importance. We should all vow today to no vote for any general fund budget until education is adequately funded first! Let's say not one more dime of general fund money will be spent until our children are at the top of the list.

Colleagues, let's all together leave this chamber in July saying we funded children first.”