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# Representative Greg Smith

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact**

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## **Rep. Greg Smith Delivers Successful Legislative Session for District 57 and Eastern Oregon Bringing Home Policy Bills, Budget Bills and Capital Construction Funding**

SALEM – As the final gavel hit and the 77<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly adjourned, House District 57 and Eastern Oregon can say they had a successful session due in large part to [Representative Greg Smith \(R-Heppner\)](#).

### **BUDGETS**

Representative Smith, who sits as the ranking house member of the Joint Ways and Means Budget Committee, worked hard to make sure critical state agency budgets to Eastern Oregon saw an increase in funding this coming biennium.

One state budget which will see over a \$1 billion increase in funding is the K-12 Education budget.

***“This is a moment of elation for Eastern Oregon. We’re going to be able to add teachers back... we’re going to be able to add school days back... we’re going to be able to invest in shop, music and agricultural programs.” – Representative Greg Smith***

Rep. Smith has worked hard since 2001 to invest more in our education system. In 2001 the education budget was about \$5.2 billion. This session Rep. Smith voted to pass the budget at \$6.75 billion.

Representative Smith also voted to increase the Oregon State Police budget by more than \$10 million in total funds. This additional funding will help turn around the budget reductions the agency has seen the past few biennium.

## **CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION**

In addition to improved funding from the budget committee, Representative Smith sits on the Joint Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee. This committee determines the allocation of lottery bonds and funding of capital construction projects throughout the state.

***"I am happy to make sure over \$21 million returns home to invest in Eastern Oregon projects. These projects create jobs and stimulate economic development in the region." – Representative Greg Smith***

Several projects Representative Smith was able to fund are:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Dollar Allocation</b>
Water Supply Development Account Funding (Columbia River Basin)	\$10,000,000
Port of Umatilla / CTUIR Road Development (Umatilla)	\$3,500,000
BMCC Applied Animal Science Education Center	\$3,331,350
Eastern Oregon University – Eastern Learning Commons	\$2,000,000
Celilo Falls Consortium Project (Wasco County)	\$1,500,000
Sherman/Gilliam/Wheeler County Digital Switch	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,331,350</b>

***"I'm proud of the work I've done with Rep. Smith to help strengthen funding for schools, invest in campus construction projects, and put Oregonians back to work. Thanks to the work we've done together, Oregon is turning the corner toward prosperity and growth." -Speaker of the House Tina Kotek (D-Portland)***

***"Rep. Smith's ability to work with all legislators provides tremendous value to House District 57. His district and Eastern Oregon saw success from the 2013 Legislative Session because he continues to put the interests of his district first." -House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte)***

## **POLICY**

Representative Smith also championed the passage of several pieces of policy legislation this session. Smith also helped defeat several pieces of legislation. He actively worked to maintain the votes to defeat all Anti-Second Amendment legislation. These votes helped maintain these bills from proceeding to the House Floor for a vote.

Below are a few of the pieces of legislation Representative Smith helped shepherd through to the Governor's desk:

[House Bill 2704](#) (Priority Bill for Umatilla County) - Provides conditions under which associated transmission lines are necessary for service to the public. This bill also promotes more local

control by requiring approval by county governing body or its designee in siting of associated transmission lines if specific conditions are met.

[House Bill 2203](#) (Priority bill for Umatilla Electric Cooperative) - Requires a person filing a permit with the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to build transmission lines to notify the Public Utility Commission (PUC) with the name and contact information for the persons responsible for maintenance and operation of those transmission lines.

[Senate Bill 2](#) – Creates the *Scholars for a Healthy Oregon* Initiative. This program will pay the entire cost of tuition and fees for (up to) 40 students in exchange for their commitment to work after graduation in Oregon’s underserved or rural communities.

[Senate Bill 440](#) – Creates a *Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program* and funds it. The program will assist primary care physicians who agree to work in rural or underserved communities and serve Medicaid and Medicare patients. This program will address the primary care provider workforce shortage in Oregon’s rural medically underserved areas.

[House Bill 2123](#) – Maintains fair reimbursement rates from the state to rural pharmacies. These rates help rural pharmacies keep their doors open and health care available to those residing in rural areas.

[House Resolution 2](#) – Resolution honoring the life and dedicated service of late Hermiston Mayor, Robert E. Severson.

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