



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT  
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Rep. Whisnant Works to Expand Government Transparency and Accountability**  
*Passes Legislation to Strengthen Oregon's Transparency Website*

**Salem, Ore.** – On July 1, the Oregon State Senate approved [HB 2946](#), which was introduced and sponsored by State Representative Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) to expand the amount of information that is available to Oregonians through the State's Transparency Website.

The [Oregon Transparency Website](#) was established in 2009 with the passage of HB 2500, sponsored by State Representatives Gene Whisnant, Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer), Jefferson Smith (D-Portland), Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), and State Senator Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). The website is recognized by the United States Public Interest Research Group as one of the top four transparency websites in the nation, a ranking that it has achieved without any dedicated funding from the legislature.

Currently, however, the Transparency Website is not required to contain information about the many semi-independent state agencies in Oregon. To address this, Rep. Whisnant worked with the website's manager, Paula Newsome, as well as a team of representatives from various semi-independent state agencies, to craft and introduce HB 2946 this session, which will require that this data be included in the website, going forward.

"Government transparency and accountability have been legislative priorities of mine since I first came to Salem in 2003," said Rep. Whisnant. "This is an important step on our way to becoming one of the most transparent states in the nation, and I am proud of the work that my legislative colleagues and relevant stakeholders have done to bring us to this point."

Having passed the House on June 7, HB 2946 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

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