**REPRESENTATIVE SMITH FACILITATES FUNDING FOR**

**HERMISTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY RENOVATION**

***SALEM, OR.* – Representative Gregory Smith (R-Heppner)**, Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, voted to approve $1,000,000 for the Hermiston Carnegie Library Renovation.

Prior to the construction of the new Hermiston City Hall, the Carnegie Library building housed the Building and Planning Department for the City of Hermiston. While the historic building is no longer needed for administrative or customer service purposes, the city is developing a plan to create a space to make the Carnegie Library a public asset.

Immediate Past Mayor of Hermiston, Dave Drotzmann, praises the funding allocation, stating, “The Carnegie Library is one of Hermiston’s only historical buildings.  I am enthralled that we are about to preserve this iconic Hermiston landmark. I’d like to thank Representative Smith for his strong leadership and support of this important community priority!”

The project includes renovating the historic building into a community museum, arts center, cultural center, or similar space for the public good. This plan makes the Carnegie Library accessible while preserving one of Hermiston’s oldest buildings.

Smith stated, “I'm proud to support this critical investment in the Hermiston Carnegie Library. This funding not only preserves a historic cornerstone of our community but also ensures that future generations have access to the educational resources and cultural programs that make Hermiston a great place to live, learn, and grow.”

Smith was elected to serve his thirteenth term as a State Representative, making him the longest-serving member in the Oregon Legislature, as well as the 4th longest-serving State Representative in Oregon history. He holds a gavel as the Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government. Representative Smith also serves as the Co-Vice Chair of the full Joint Ways and Means Committee. Additionally, he is the ranking member of the House Revenue Committee. To reach out, please visit Rep Smith's Facebook Page or send him an email at rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov.

Smith is the Republican budget leader who represents the entirety of Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler, and Wasco counties, as well as portions of Clackamas, Jefferson, Marion, and Umatilla Counties.

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