

The Honorable Gregory V. Smith

Oregon House of Representatives

District 57

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JUNE 25, 2025

**REPRESENTATIVE SMITH FACILITATES FUNDING FOR**

**WHEELER COUNTY FOOD BANK**

***SALEM, OR.* – Representative Gregory Smith (R-Heppner)**, Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, voted to approve $500,000 for the construction of a Wheeler County Food Bank.

Wheeler County is not just the high desert, but also a food desert. Grocery options are sparse and inaccessible for many.

Establishing a food bank in Wheeler County provides a stable, local resource where individuals and families can receive the support they need.

Lynn Morley, Wheeler County Judge, praised the funding allocation, stating, “For a small, rural community like ours, this food bank means everything.”

Morley added, “It’s more than just a place to pick up groceries, it’s a sign that we haven’t been forgotten. Knowing that we’ll have consistent access to fresh, healthy food takes a huge weight off the shoulders of so many families here. We’re incredibly grateful to Representative Greg Smith, who made this happen.”

Smith stated, “Ensuring that every Oregonian has access to nutritious food is a priority, and this funding to construct a food bank in Wheeler County is a vital step forward.

Smith went on to state, “Rural communities like ours face unique challenges, and this project represents a strong investment in the health and well-being of our neighbors. I’m proud to advocate for resources that directly support our families and strengthen the fabric of our community.”

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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