



## *State Representative Greg Smith*

*House District 57*

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla,  
& Morrow Counties*

**News Release:**

**February 1, 2010**

### **LEGISLATURE CONVENES FOR FEBRUARY SPECIAL SESSION**

*Rep. Greg Smith to Focus on Jobs, Health Care, Accountability*



(Salem) The Legislature today convened for a month-long special session. With high unemployment and a struggling state economy, [Representative Greg Smith](#) said he will focus on putting Oregonians back to work, addressing other urgent issues, and adjourning the special session as soon as possible.

“Over one in five Oregonians can’t find a job, are working fewer hours than they like, or simply give up looking for work,” Rep. Smith said. “The February session gives the Legislature another opportunity to help Oregon families during this recession. That’s why I’ll work hard to pass solutions that create family-wage jobs and help our small businesses succeed and retain the employees they have.”

To create jobs, Rep. Smith will join [House Republicans](#) in re-introducing the Main Street Incentive Plan to encourage businesses and homeowners to immediately invest in their properties through a tax credit. Other measures include providing a job creation tax credit to businesses that create new jobs, and helping small businesses retain employees by allowing them to defer state taxes until the economy improves.

To promote job creation in rural Oregon, House Republicans will propose extending eligibility for qualifying small businesses operating in enterprise zones, and providing incentives for the production and transportation of biomass from Oregon’s forests.

"The Legislature will struggle to balance the budget as long as so many Oregonians are out of work," Rep. Smith said. "We've lost 130,000 private-sector jobs over the past year, so we must improve the environment for businesses so that more employers will hire and locate here."

Representative Smith will also focus on making health care more affordable by allowing individuals and families who purchase their own health insurance to deduct the costs of their premium from their overall tax liability. He will also support ethics, spending and budget reforms to hold state legislators and government accountable.

"I am committed to addressing the state's highest priorities: jobs, health care and government accountability," Rep. Smith. The Legislature should tackle these issues, and adjourn as quickly as possible."

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900 Court Street NE H-482 Salem, OR 97301 ~ 503-986-1457  
PO Box 219, Heppner, OR, 97836 ~ 541-676-5154  
PO Box 1393, La Grande, OR 97850 ~541-993-5236  
Email: [rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us)