



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

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House passes Borrow and Spend Stimulus Bill

Rep. Whisnant opposes increasing our debt to help a recession caused by bad debts

On Thursday, the Oregon House passed a bill which borrows \$175 million to work on state buildings and create 3,000 new jobs.

The annual payments on this debt will be about \$20 million dollars per year or \$40 million dollars per state budget which will double the debt. The K-12 school budget, public safety, and health services budgets will suffer as result of this bill for 15-20 years.

Rep. Whisnant reported, "I opposed the bill because it was a partisan bill with no input by the minority and it is a lot of make work with your tax dollars."

"We should only be using our debt capability to address emergency issues which we will face in balancing the current budget and the 2009-2011 budget; However, this bill uses our borrowing ability to fund projects which were not high enough priorities to be funding or expensed in previous years," Rep. Whisnant warned.

In fact, House Republicans requested the list of projects be eliminated because we do not believe they achieve the objectives stated by Legislative leadership of "ensuring job creation all over Oregon" or really help individuals and families recover from our economic recession. "I wanted to support the Community College projects but there was too much pork in the bill," he added.

Surprisingly, Oregon Department of Administrative Services declared \$451,766 of the projects on the list will not qualify for this type debt. However, the bill still contains this debt possibility."

Rep. Whisnant stated, "The advocates for this bill believe that it may help but history and experts do not support the theory that we can tax and borrow our way out of a recession. They are using debt to recover from a recession cause by debt."

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