



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
900 COURT ST NE  
SALEM, OR 97301

## **REP WHISNANT'S REPORT ON FEB 2010 SESSION TOWN HALLS**

*It is an honor to serve as your representative and I worked hard on your behalf in the February 2010 "non-emergency" session. The following is my report to you:*

### **Rep. Whisnant accomplishments:**

- Supported all the bills to promote private-sector job creation.
- Supported the rework on the business energy tax credit program (BETC).
- Supported and carried on the floor the destination resort reform bill SB 1031 and SB 1036 extending the authority for "Guest Ranches."
- Sponsored an OLCC bill which allowed private clubs to apply for liquor licenses.
- Sponsored a bi-partisan bill establishing a demonstration program using non-profits to improve Oregon's visual screening of school students.
- Supported the following bills: HB 3655 which extending unemployment benefits for 18,600 Oregonians; HB 3627 provides tax credits for laid-off Oregonians to invest in new businesses; HB 3631 prohibits denial of coverage for sexual assault.
- Supported SB 999 and SB 1000 to help our returning veterans. Both of these bills helped address veteran issues I learned about from in-district meetings with veterans.

### **Annual Sessions:**

SJR 41 and SB 998 were the last major legislation passed. House and Senate leaders finally reached agreement Thursday on a 195 day limit (160/35) for both sessions.

### **Biggest Disappointments:**

The lack of legislation to create jobs and improve our economy. The retribution legislation against those who supported a NO on Measures 66 & 67. Also, I am disappointed the Senate Leadership killed HB 3638, stopping the revolving door for legislators. This bill which I sponsored passed the House 60-0. This would have been an excellent example of negotiated bi-partisan work. I supported Oregon's crime victims and law enforcement community calling for repeal of 2009 law which allowed violent criminals to seek and in many cases win early release from prison. I opposed the Democrat solution, SB 1007, which suspended these early releases until after the November elections. SB 1059 puts an unfunded mandate on cities to reduce their green house gas from the 1990 level. I spoke against the bill on the floor about the start date of 1990 and that impact on Central Oregon. The bill only passed with 32 yes votes.

### **Overall evaluation:**

The Democrat-led legislature failed to address Oregon's chronic unemployment. They increased state spending by \$30 million and added over 200 government positions.

Sincerely, honestly, and with respect:  
Gene Whisnant