



## Senator Bruce Starr

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### **Starr Works for Roads, Jobs and Schools**

**Salem** – Creating new jobs and battling the state’s meth epidemic were major accomplishments for Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) in Salem this year. A major transportation package and incentives to locate new business in Oregon will create jobs while a bi-partisan plan was passed to fight methamphetamine.

“We need to get Oregon moving again,” stated Starr. “Creating jobs and unclogging our roads are a good start.”

Starr picked up where he left off two years ago by continuing to address traffic and congestion. This year he championed a plan known as “Connect Oregon” which will put \$100 million into transportation projects. “To have livable communities and attract new jobs we must reduce congestion,” stated Starr. “We are continuing to make headway.”

The new transportation package is on top of the multi-billion dollar package Starr worked on in 2003. That effort is reducing congestion and repairing the state’s crumbling roads and bridges. This year’s plan is the fourth major transportation package Starr has helped draft.

The bi-partisan meth package will increase treatment, prevention and prosecution efforts. Starr, the victim of a meth related burglary, says these reforms will help. “It is not just the addicts and their families who are victims,” stated Starr. “Oregon is now a national leader in the fight to rid our communities of meth labs.”

Starr was disappointed that more was not done to help schools. “More should have been done to support our children’s classrooms,” stated Starr. “By focusing resources on the classroom, we are truly putting children first.”

Starr sponsored a proposal to require that 65% of all money for schools go to classroom instruction. Currently, Oregon classrooms receive about 59% of the money appropriated to schools. The proposal, which died in the Senate, increased that amount to 65%. Starr’s plan could have provided more than \$312 million to hire new teachers and reduce class sizes. “Why wouldn’t we want to do this?” Starr asked.

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