



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

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**Representative Whisnant Honored as “Legislator of the Year” by ALEC**

Sunriver, OR— Rep. Gene Whisnant was named a recipient of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s (ALEC) “Legislator of the Year” Award at the organization’s annual meeting in New Orleans, LA on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

“I am pleased to recognize Gene Whisnant as a Legislator of the Year, and would like to thank him for his outstanding dedication to our organization,” said ALEC National Chairman Louisiana Democrat State Representative Noble Ellington. “Rep. Whisnant is to be commended for his leadership, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such committed individuals like Gene Whisnant over the past year.”

The “Legislator of the Year” Award is given to state legislators who are ALEC members in good standing and have distinguished themselves by taking a leadership role in advancing, introducing and/or enacting policies based on the fundamental Jeffersonian principles of **free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty**.

Rep. Gene Whisnant was honored with the award for his leadership as the ALEC Oregon Public Sector Chair and his legislation which was based upon ALEC models and the Jeffersonian principles.

“ALEC is an organization of State Legislators which creates, after responsible debate, model legislation for states to consider in addressing their state needs,” Rep. Whisnant commented. “Also, ALEC publishes outstanding information for state legislators like the “Rich States, Poor States” report on states’ economic competitiveness.”

“A major bill which was passed in 2009 was the bipartisan HB 2500 which created a ‘taxpayers transparency website’ ([www.oregon.gov/transparency](http://www.oregon.gov/transparency)) based upon ALEC model legislation,” added Rep. Whisnant who was a chief architect of the bill.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation’s leading nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. While ALEC members gather around the principles of limited government, free market and federalism, it is the diversity of the members and their different perspectives that really further the discussions. ([www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org))

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