



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

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**REP. WHISNANT VOTES TO DEFEND PROPERTY RIGHTS,
WILL OF DISTRICT 53 VOTERS ON MEASURE 37**

Supported Amendment to Implement M37, Provide Transferability and Quicker Processing

SALEM— Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) today voted to defend private property rights by opposing HB 3540 and HB 3546, the legislation introduced by Democrats to limit Oregonians' rights under Measure 37.

“I oppose efforts to gut Measure 37, as it was passed by 63 percent of voters in House District 53,” Rep. Whisnant said. “I agree with my constituents that Measure 37 is necessary to restoring fairness to Oregon’s land use system.”

Rep. Whisnant opposed the legislation because it severely restricts what property owners can build, and makes it more difficult for them to prove how government regulations reduced the value of their land. The legislation imposes additional bureaucracy into the Measure 37 process, and exposes legitimate Measure 37 claimants to endless litigation.

As an alternative, Rep. Whisnant supported Republican amendments to re-write HB 3540 and provide transferability and quick approval for claims seeking a small number of lots or homes for their children and retirement income. The amendments also would have enabled complicated claims to continue working through the state- and county-level process. These amendments were rejected by Democrats on a party-line vote.

“Measure 37 was passed because Oregonians were tired of heavy-handed government planners dictating what they could or couldn’t do with their own land,” Rep. Whisnant said. “This legislation vastly and unnecessarily complicates the Measure 37 process, which the Legislature should have clarified and implemented after the initiative was passed.”

Rep. Whisnant also said he opposes holding a \$1.8 million special election, considering Oregonians have already voted twice to reform the state land use system in 2000 and 2004.

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