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Oregon Farm Bureau Gives Rep. Brock Smith Award for Efforts

Oregon Farm Bureau honored Rep. David Brock Smith with an award for his work on legislation critical to farm and ranch families.

Rep. Brock Smith was essential in helping get HB 2437, “the ditch cleaning bill,” passed by the 2019 Oregon Legislature. The legislation helps farmers and ranchers more easily clean out debris from dry drainage ditches, a task that had required a very complicated, expensive permitting process. The program will roll out sometime in 2020.

The award was presented to Rep. Brock Smith on Dec. 12, 2019 during the 87th Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Convention at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach.

“As his constituent, I am honored to present Rep. Brock Smith with this award in appreciation of his tireless pursuit of solutions for farm and ranch families in the maintenance of their ditches. We thank him for his hard work and devotion to Oregon agriculture,” said outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman, who runs a ranch raising sheep, cattle, and timber in Bandon.

“Rep. Brock Smith worked tirelessly for farm and ranch families on many critical rural issues this session, including cap and trade, forestry, livestock districts, and tide-gates. In the midst of all of his advocacy, he found time to work with Rep. Susan McLain and devote specific time and attention to finding the much-needed solution to ditch cleaning issues,” said outgoing OFB President Waterman.

Rep. Brock Smith was co-chair of the workgroup that tackled this issue with Rep. Susan McLain, and he spent countless hours pushing within the workgroup and with his colleagues for provisions in the bill that would help farmers and ranchers -- and ensure the program would finally be functional.

“He rallied support across the aisle for the bill, met with environmental groups and others opposing the bill, and stood strong with Rep. Susan McLain and Rep. Brian Clem against the last-minute veto threat that would have undermined months of hard work and collaboration,” said outgoing OFB President Waterman.

PHOTO 1: On Dec. 12 during the 2019 OFB Convention, Farm Bureau honored partners who were instrumental in getting the “ditch cleaning bill,” HB 2437, passed through the state legislature this year. From left are Jena Carter of The Nature Conservancy, Chandra Ferrari of Trout Unlimited, OFB VP of Public Policy Mary Anne Cooper, Rep. Susan McLain, and Rep. David Brock Smith.
PHOTO 2: On Dec. 12 during the 2019 OFB Convention, Farm Bureau honored Rep. David Brock Smith (middle), who was instrumental in getting the “ditch cleaning bill,” HB 2437, passed through the state legislature. From left are outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman, Rep. David Brock Smith, and OFB EVP Dave Dillon.


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* Note to Editors: “Farm Bureau” is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases.

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit, general farm organization representing the interests of farming and ranching families in the public and policymaking arenas. First established in Oregon at the county level in 1919 and the state level in 1932, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barb Iverson, elected on Dec. 12, 2019, comes from a multigenerational family farm from Woodburn, raising industrial hemp, grass seed, squash, vetch seed, hazelnuts, wine and table grapes, and operating the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, which attracts over 160,000 visitors each year.