

# Daily Shipping News

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## UP FRONT Column

—By Dick Montgomery, Columnist 5038

### Dave Hunt Needed In Salem

Perhaps never before in the history of Oregon and Washington has it been clear



Montgomery

how desperately the legislative assembly needs men and women who have transportation infrastructure experience and knowledge. In Washington the plight of citizens face because of inadequate road and rail capacity and grade separations is a daily frustration. Things aren't much better in Oregon where the legislature sat on its hands for more than a decade without making adjustments to the gas tax or long term highway planning.

And both states peg the future of their Columbia River

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seaports on deepening the navigation channel to serve bigger ships - particularly container and grain carriers - that can't now be properly served. Delay of this project continues to erode the economies of both states.

With this need in Olympia and Salem ever before us, it is good news that Dave Hunt, Executive Director of the Columbia River Channel Coalition, is a candidate for Oregon State Representative in House District 40, which includes Northern Clackamas County's Gladstone, Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, Johnson City and part of Clackamas. If you live in these communities or know folks who do, you'll be helping the transportation industry and the people of Oregon if you put a good word in for him.

### Forums Reflect Hunt's Influence

Most recently the charismatic Hunt took my breath away by the manner in which he created excitement and participation in the Urban-Rural Channel Deepening

Forums held in Portland and Pasco, Washington. An astute river watcher told me no one could have made these meetings come off the way dynamic Dave did. Anyone who is anybody on the three-state path of the Columbia-Snake Rivers was there - ports, labor, management, farm communi-

ties, navigation, representatives from the power industry, government officials, elected representatives you name it. The enormity of involvement made it quite clear

channel deepening is an idea whose time has come - hurdles and all.

### Experienced, Involved, Committed

So who is Dave Hunt? Dave Hunt knows his way around government - government agencies and the legislative process. And he cares about the real concerns of people and children. In Salem, he'll hit the ground running.

He's worked as a community representative for U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (1990-1996), field

representative and district director for Congresswoman Darlene Hoolley (1997-1999), district director for U.S. Congressman Brian Baird (1999-2001) all before heading up the Columbia River Coalition last year.

Thirty-four-year-old Dave Hunt is a Northwest native who attended high school in Eugene and Columbia University in New York City, majoring in Political Science/American Government.

Dave was elected to the Oregon City School Board in 1999 and now serves as Vice Chair. He is a member of the Clackamas County Committee on Citizen Involvement, Oregon City/West Linn Rotary, Jennings Lodge Community Planning Organization and Jennings Lodge & Candy Lane Schools foundation.

On the personal side, Dave is serving a two-year term as the youngest-ever President of American Baptist Churches USA, which represents 5,600 churches and 1.5 million members.

### This He Believes

High on his list of priorities is the need for adequate transportation that meets passenger and freight mobility needs. He'll also work for excellent public education for all Oregon students; quality health care for all Oregonians, especially children and seniors; vibrant economic development that creates family-wage jobs; and livable communities that pass on the best of Oregon to the next generation.

Dave and his wife, Tonia, a part-time public policy analyst for Children First for Oregon, have two children, Andrew, 6, and Emily, 2.

Dave is one of ours and he can use your support whether or not you reside in House District 40.

Let's hope a person with Dave's transportation, and human, credentials has a hand in the Oregon's law making process. Fortunately, he'll continue to lead the Columbia River Channel Coalition as he attempts to extend his clout to Salem.