

# THE FAR SIDE

**Congressman  
Greg Walden** 🤠  
**in the age of**  
🤡 **Trump**

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

**C**ongressman Greg Walden is not a typical politician. Or maybe he is.

The lone Republican in Oregon's federal delegation, Walden has represented Oregon's 2nd congressional district, a sprawling area east of the Cascades that starts near Idaho and ends at the California border, since 1998.

Walden seems affable, quick with a quip. He has a tendency toward wonky answers that aren't really answers. He's hard to pin down, but real nice about it.

In April, when the congressman held a town hall to meet with his constituents in Bend, it was his first such event in that liberal-leaning city since 2013, that is unless you count the mock town halls held outside his offices there by protesters.

As a longtime House member, Walden wields significant power in Congress. He recently used some of that power to help craft the controversial health care bill — or as some would argue, tax-cutting bill for the rich — that seeks to repeal and replace Obamacare, aka the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

His role in Trump's health care bill, the American Health Care Act of 2017, as well as his representing the district that was the site of the Malheur occupation last year, has put Walden's name in the headlines. Politically, Walden, whom critics have accused of trying to have it both ways by appeasing both his conservative and more liberal constituents, seems to be going all in with President Donald Trump.

It's also led to speculation over whether the venerable Republican is vulnerable in the 2018 election, as Democrats try to win back Congress. Challengers have already begun to enter the fray.

After a weeklong exchange with Justin Discigil, Walden's communications director, *Eugene Weekly* was informed that Walden was not available for an interview due to "Greg's very busy schedule."