

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAVERTON, Oregon Feb. 17 -- Congressman Les AuCoin, who holds Oregon's only seat of the critical House Appropriations Committee, said Monday he will seek reelection to ensure high priority treatment for Oregon's economic future in the next Congress.

"My vision," AuCoin said, "is to make Oregon the breadbasket of the Pacific Rim, a world-class center for research and high technology, and a leader in international trade."

With his wife Sue at his side, AuCoin also said during a Beaverton press conference that with "the Bonneville Power Administration and other important assets on the auction block, this simply isn't the time to send a freshman Congressman to Washington."

AuCoin, 43, is dean of Oregon's House delegation, for six terms representing the suburban homes of Washington County, the farming communities of Yamhill and Polk Counties, the fishing and agricultural communities of Tillamook, Lincoln, Clatsop and Columbia counties, and the western half of Multnomah County.

Since 1981, AuCoin has held a seat on the House Appropriations Committee, serving on the Interior and Defense subcommittees. The committee makes all decisions on spending priorities, a role given increased magnitude by the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law.

"Most of Oregon's problems are the result of taxing and spending priorities I consistently opposed," AuCoin said. "But rather than point the finger of blame, I've rolled up my sleeves and gone to work. The results are new jobs and new hope for a state that needs hope, and jobs, very much."

Joining AuCoin at the press conference were five Oregonians whose lives, he said, help illustrate his vision for Oregon and the results of his work on behalf of the district's 540,000 residents.

With AuCoin were:

\* Casey Powell, founder of Sequent Computers in Beaverton. "Firms like Casey's are looking for places where there is good highway transportation and state-of-the-art academic research institutions," AuCoin said. "I've passed laws to help build the Oregon Graduate Center into a world class research center," adding that his transportation work has "lead to the development of over 80 firms and 30,000 jobs in Washington County alone."

\* Harriet Engblom, a fisherman's wife from Clatsop County. Noting that the future of Oregon's coast is largely in the hands of the fishing community, AuCoin said "I'm proud to have played a role in stabilizing the search and rescue ability of the Coast Guard, which is a life and death issue for commercial fishermen."

\* Mike Fahey, "one of the more than 2000 workers who have jobs in the Portland shipyards," AuCoin said, "that weren't there three years ago" before the Congressman help break up "the cozy old-boy network that kept sending most of the work to southern California."

\* Al Coussens, a family farmer from Hillsboro. Pointing out that Coussens and other Oregon wheat farmers would be the first targets of retaliation in a trade war, AuCoin said he was

"proud that I've helped put together a bloc of support to sustain a veto of a protectionist textile bill."

\* John Doss of Taylor Lumber, whose mill, in Sheridan, along with dozens of others timber companies across the state, faced bankruptcy when the bottom fell out of the housing market. "Today, most of those mills are still in business because my work on the timber contract relief bill stabilized a vital segment of Oregon's number one industry," AuCoin said.

The press conference was held in a Beaverton restaurant, one of several dozen downtown Beaverton firms to be rehabilitated under a HUD grant won for the community by AuCoin. Following the project, downtown Beaverton was accepted in the National Register of Historic Places.

AuCoin, a native of Portland, was graduated from Redmond High School and, after a stint in the Army infantry, from Pacific University in Forest Grove. He represented portions of Washington County in the Oregon Legislature from 1971 through 1974, serving as Majority Leader during the 1973 session. The AuCoin's children, Stacy and Kelly, both attend college.