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FOR OREGON STATE TREASURER

Announcement Speech

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Oregon was not built on fear . . . But on courage, on imagination and the unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.

Bob Straub, one of Oregon's great State Treasurers said that. Those words remind me of our past, of our state's pioneering spirit and of our potential. They remind us that as a people, we are independent, innovative and inspired.

Each of us have hopes and dreams for our future; but day to day concerns often get in the way of investing in ourselves and bringing those dreams to reality... We stay awake at night with concerns for our families, their health and our home.

Paying bills, cooking meals, taking care of loved ones, running errands...these things too often take precedent over increasing our employment skills, saving for college, planning for retirement. And before we know it, our "future" has become the "present" and we're not prepared.

Our State has similar concerns. Like us, our state has bills to pay. It has a credit rating. It worries about rising costs. And it must prioritize its finances to meet increasing demands. And, like us, it must plan for long-term financial stability.

It's the job of the state Treasurer to see that the bigger picture...the long-term vision doesn't get lost in the small details of the day.

The management of today's assets creates tomorrow's successes.

That is why I stand here on this day to ask Oregonians to consider my candidacy to serve as Oregon's State Treasurer.

As Oregon's next state Treasurer, I will draw on my twenty year business career and ten years as a legislator to provide a voice for investing in Oregon's future...a strong voice for the stewardship of Oregon's financial and natural resources.

As a business owner and entrepreneur, I know firsthand the struggles of meeting payroll, the risk of expansion, and the prudence and discipline required of running a successful venture. They are lessons hard-learned and I will take them with me to the State Treasurer's office

For two decades, my business career was enough. I was a successful, living in Central Oregon, raising a family and enjoying a pretty good life. But, something was missing.

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I wanted to give back, that's why I first ran for the state legislature in 1996.

As a legislator, I have seen that by investing in our people and our economy - we can build a better Oregon.

- As a member of the budget committee and a former Co-chair of that process, I understand how every line item in our state's budget impacts our families and our communities.
- To give back to families of public safety officers killed or critically injured in the line of duty, I proposed and passed legislation to create a "The Fallen Officers" fund, which is fed by assessments on convicted criminals who put officers at risk.
- To expand Oregon's economy through investment in the Arts, I was the architect, and now serve on the board, of the Oregon Cultural Trust, an innovative public private partnership that supports local cultural non-profit organization and jobs.
- To help create markets and jobs around renewable energy, I have championed legislation to expand the use of solar, biofuels, wind and other sustainable forms of energy production.
- To help grow Oregon's economy, I have passed legislation to help small businesses expand, excel and create jobs.
- To help every individual and business lower health care costs and afford coverage, I helped pass the Healthy Oregon Act just a few months ago.

Right now is the time in our history where we must decide if Oregon is to be an economic leader or follower.

Oregon's heritage is one of innovation and excellence, of principles and progressivism, of self-reliance and results.

We can, each of us, meet this future head- on and better ourselves and our state in the process.

As State Treasurer, I will continue Oregon's tradition of wise investments to create wealth for our people and to save tax dollars for our state.

- I will invest in our people by expanding the college savings program to more families.
- I will work to expand financial literacy that helps people make sound choices and save for a home purchase or retirement.

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- I will enhance Oregon's brand by advocating for local and sustainable business models to build a more socially, environmentally and financially sustainable economy
- I will look at creative ways we can speed up investments to repair our infrastructure.
- To help Oregon consumers, I will champion legislation that protects people from unscrupulous lending schemes like payday loans and predatory mortgages that put their financial well-being at risk.
- As State Treasurer I will promote investments in renewable energy to reduce our dependency on foreign and create Oregon jobs.
- As State Treasurer I will manage the Oregon Health Fund, passed by the 2007 Legislature as part of the Healthy Oregon Act, to help businesses and individuals lower health care costs.
- And, of increasingly greater importance, I will strive to educate Oregonians on the financial risks of global climate change and help find workable solutions for our future.

The State Treasurer is a steward of Oregon's future. One who must put the bigger vision of tomorrow ahead of the problems of today.

As a cancer survivor, I know that hope for the future is essential to our well-being.

- For every Oregonian whose life can be improved, by saving for college, gaining new financial skills, or even saving for a rainy day, the Treasurer can help.
- For every entrepreneur that looks to the state for financial strength in a global economy, the Treasurer can help.
- Like the student planning for college, the senior concerned about retirement and the business owner concerned about the balance sheet, the future looms ahead, unknown.

My mother passed away recently and I have been reflecting on the values she left with me. My mother, the heart of our family, taught us that having the courage to face the unknown prepares us for the future.

And, if we can find strength in the words of Bob Straub, *"Oregon was not built on fear . . . But on courage, on imagination and the unbeatable determination to do the job at hand"* then the future isn't scary. It's an opportunity.

