VICKI BERGER
REPRESENTATIVE
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Marc Miller**
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REP. BERGER GUEST SPEAKER AT BOOK SIGNING FOR LOCAL AUTHOR

SALEM – On Sunday, September 12, Representative Vicki Berger spoke to an audience about the importance of women's participation in the political process. Rep. Berger was a guest speaker at a book signing at Powell's Book Store in Portland for local author, Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, who is releasing her new book, The F Word: Feminism in Jeopardy. Women, Politics and the Future.

"Kristin's book is a well researched, thorough study of voting demographics and trends in the Pacific Northwest. Her conclusions emphasize the fact that there are too few women in elected office," said Rep. Berger. Berger pointed out that Oregon is ahead of the national average for women holding an elected office in the state's legislature. The membership of the Oregon Legislature is 28% women. The national average is 22%.

Rep. Berger also participated in a question and answer session with the audience. The conversation revolved around facts listed in the book such as in the year 2000, 65% of women aged 18-24 did not vote. "Too many young people are turned off by the partisan nature of the political process," said Rep. Berger. "However, the rewards are far greater than the sacrifices made; your participation preserves our democracy."

Rep. Berger was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002. During the legislative session, she served as Vice-Chair of the Trade and Economic Committee and was a member on the House Revenue Committee. During the interim, Rep. Berger is serving as the Vice-Chair for the House Interim Committee on Land Use Review and is a member on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform, the House Interim Committee on Revenue and the Joint Legislative Counsel Committee.

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner currently works as a consultant and researcher in the field of environmental policy and political strategy. As a freelance journalist, she writes frequently about public policy, motherhood, heath, and new feminism. Rowe-Finkbeiner formally was the political director for a state political action committee. She lives in Washington.

This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Rep. Berger's office are available on the web at: www.leg.state.or.us/berger.

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