



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Representative Jeff Merkley

State Capitol, Room 269
Salem, Oregon

February 1, 2007

Contact: Russ Kelley (503) 986-1210

Merkley, House Challenge Senate to Food Drive Contest

SALEM—House Speaker Jeff Merkley (D-Portland) today challenged Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and the Oregon Senate to meet or beat the House of Representatives in collections for the Governor's food drive. The House plans to raise at least \$8000 this year, besting its previous record of \$7500.

The State Employees Food Drive kicks off today and runs through March 2nd. For every dollar donated, the Oregon Food Bank can collect and distribute 6 pounds of food through its food distribution program. Food bins will be placed in strategic locations around the Capitol for canned food donations. Monetary donations are welcome as well.

The House will host a Mardi Gras lunch on Fat Tuesday, February 20th to raise money for the food drive. The lunch will feature jambalaya, music and beads and will cost \$5 per person. Other House fundraising events in the next month will include a coin toss, bake sales, silent auctions and raffles.

The Galleria will be available for fundraising events on a first-come, first-served basis. To sign up for the space, contact Juliene Poppinga or Daniel Russell in Room 140 A. Further information on upcoming events will be made public as available.

There has been no word yet on whether the Senate will accept the challenge.

###