

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, Oct. 5

Contact: Katherine Gray, (541) 981-4050, katherine@jamiefororegon.com

**McLeod-Skinner Makes Strong Case for Election
*Contrasts district needs with Walden interests***

Bend, Ore.—Jamie McLeod-Skinner (D-Terrebonne), candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in the Oregon second district, tonight presented a strong alternative to the failed leadership of incumbent U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River), offering clear plans to improve the lives of people in our district.

In a televised debate with Walden, the rural Democrat emphasized:

- Improving access to affordable physical and mental healthcare.
- Investing in infrastructure to create high-paying jobs.
- Expanding access to trade schools and continuing education.
- Ending tariffs that harm our agricultural sector.

McLeod-Skinner noted that one in five Oregonians in the second district could have lost health insurance if Walden’s effort last year to repeal the Affordable Care Act had been successful. The rural Democrat criticized Walden for drafting legislation that would allow insurance companies to charge high “deterrence premiums” for coverage of pre-existing conditions.

Walden took credit for passing a bill [last week](#) on the opioid crisis affecting thousands of district households. McLeod-Skinner countered that public health experts stated the bill does not go far enough and Walden takes [more money](#) than anyone in Congress from the pharmaceutical manufacturers that caused the crisis.

The Democratic challenger blasted Walden for failing to defend agricultural producers from tariffs that harm their ability to sell products abroad. Producers are “losing their markets as we speak,” McLeod-Skinner said.

McLeod-Skinner called for greater investments in rural infrastructure for economic development, including expanded rural Internet access, improved transportation and water systems, renewable energy, and affordable housing. Close to half of people in the second district live at or near the poverty level and, in his 20 years, Walden has failed to create enough skilled and high-paying jobs, she said.

JAMIE

McLEOD SKINNER

FOR CONGRESS • FOR OREGON

Walden is among the [top 10 recipients](#) in Congress of money from oil and gas interests, which McLeod-Skinner said stops the incumbent from realizing eastern Oregon's potential for renewable energy development and creating thousands of skilled jobs.

McLeod-Skinner proposed exchanging public service for the cost of attendance at trade schools and community colleges.

The rural Democrat slammed Walden for giving tax breaks to corporations and the wealthiest one percent of individuals, saying it exploded the federal budget deficit and endangers programs like Social Security, Medicare and veterans' services. When Walden claimed to support veterans, McLeod-Skinner countered with numerous examples of him voting against veterans' services, including funding for the 2011 Suicidal Prevention and PTSD for Veterans bill.