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STEVE MARKS STATEMENT ON COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE GAMING PROPOSAL

(Salem, OR) – Today, Steve Marks, Democratic candidate for Oregon’s 5th Congressional District, release the following statement regarding the proposed off-reservation gaming establishment at the Columbia River Gorge:

"I am adamantly opposed to the concept of off-reservation gaming. The policy of one casino per tribe on reservation land is a sound one, and I am proud to have helped create that policy with Governor Kitzhaber. This policy ensures that the laws are applied equally to all tribes. The rules are clear; tribes can invest in their on-reservation facilities and plan for their memberships' future. I feel strongly that this policy leads to equity amongst all tribes, and it helps balance gaming activity, both tribal and non-tribal, throughout the State of Oregon. A casino in the Columbia River Gorge would adversely affect the existing gaming facilities and the economies they support. In Congress I will work to ensure that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act limits off-reservation and tribal lands casinos. Beyond gaming policy, the proposal for a casino in the Columbia River Gorge is environmentally unwise and is a disastrous land use decision that will adversely impact the Columbia River Gorge, an area that Congress, at the urging of Oregonians, has seen as important to protect."