



## **Keynote Speaker: State Representative Jeff Merkley**

**Jeff Merkley**, a State Representative serving House District 47 in Portland and the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, is now in his fifth term serving the people of Oregon. Jeff earned an undergraduate degree from Stanford University and holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Princeton University. In 1982, he served as a Presidential Management Intern with the Office of the Secretary of Defense serving on various committees and assisting the US Delegation to NATO. He also served Congress as a budget and policy analyst in the Congressional Budget Office generating studies on the nation's options for strategic weapons. In Oregon, Jeff has served as the Executive Director of the Portland Habitat for Humanity where he coordinated community volunteers to build homes for sale to low-income families; launched development of the Habitat Home Building Center and initiated a pilot project for "YouthBuild" in which gang-affected youth learned construction and life skills while building homes in their own neighborhoods. Jeff also served as the Director of Housing Development at Human Solutions where he created the first Individual Development Account (IDA) program to help low-income families save money to buy homes, attend college or start businesses. Most recently, Jeff served as the President of the World Affairs Council of Oregon for seven years and continues to serve on the board of trustees. In 2006, he was elected by the Full House to serve as the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Representative Merkley will be the Keynote Speaker during the Luncheon and Awards Celebration on April 25, 2007.

## **Representative Jeff Merkley**

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