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**Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association's Annual Convention Returns to Bend**  
*U.S. Congressman Greg Walden to Speak at Oregon Hospitality Industry Event*

**[Wilsonville, OR]** – Congressman Greg Walden is slated as the opening keynote for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) Annual Convention in Bend September 25-26. More than 300 industry members from around the state are expected to convene at the host site, The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center.

“ORLA’s Annual Convention offers the perfect opportunity for restaurant and lodging providers to engage in conversations with industry leaders on critical issues” said Steve McCoid, president and CEO of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. “As Republican Leader in the U.S. House, Representative Walden gives us a unique perspective on these issues.”

Walden is one of several presenters during the event’s two days of seminars and keynote presentations geared toward helping the hospitality industry build their businesses. Topics include hospitality law, national and congressional issues, local sourcing, growth strategies, mobile marketing, team management, developing systems, tourism partnerships and social media marketing.

The statewide event serves as the association’s annual gathering of industry members providing a full agenda of educational programs, networking events, and industry recognition with the presentation of the Hospitality Industry Awards. It is the largest forum in Oregon for foodservice and lodging professionals to discuss business issues with fellow industry members and the association’s leadership. Convention also serves as the association’s annual meeting of the membership with elections for the Board of Directors.

To arrange an interview with association leadership or key industry members attending the event please contact ORLA’s Vice President of Marketing & Communications John Hamilton directly at 503.805.9287.

For more information on ORLA’s Annual Convention, visit [OregonRLA.org/Convention](http://OregonRLA.org/Convention) or call 800.462.0619.

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The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association is the leading business association for the foodservice and lodging industry in Oregon, which is comprised of over 9,000 foodservice locations and 2,500 lodging establishments with a work force of 170,000 employees, and a total economic impact of \$6.9 billion - making it the cornerstone of the economy, career opportunities and community involvement. The association works to advocate, protect, train and promote the foodservice and lodging industry.