

**ART ROBINSON FOR CONGRESS**

**P.O. Box 1250  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 255-2785**

18 May 2010

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio,

In the interest of providing the voters of Oregon's Fourth Congressional District with an opportunity to hear from each of us on the critical issues facing our district and our nation, I propose that we meet in a series of seven debates, one in each of the district's seven counties.

I propose a format which is very simple and direct. Each of the seven debates will be two hours long in a candidate-to-candidate format with a timekeeper – providing each speaker in turn with 3-minute timed intervals (20 intervals per candidate). Use of each speaker's time is entirely at his discretion. This format, without a moderator, will provide the voters of District 4 an un-filtered, un-choreographed, open dialogue on issues of concern to them, a dialogue they greatly need and deserve.

Full media and public access, recording, and viewing will be encouraged; however media and audience questions and statements will follow the candidate-only session.

I propose that we hold the first debate on the University of Oregon campus.

This first debate should be scheduled as soon as possible.

Please have someone from your staff respond by June 1, stating your intent to participate. We can then coordinate the schedule.

Sincerely,

Art Robinson, PhD

# CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFazio

4th District, Oregon  
P. O. Box 1316  
Springfield OR 97477  
[www.defazioforcongress.org](http://www.defazioforcongress.org)

May 27, 2010

Arthur Brouhard Robinson  
PO Box 1250  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 255-2785

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing in response to your urgent and misdirected demand for an immediate schedule of debates at times and places of your choosing with your preferred and somewhat unusual format dated May 18, 2010.

As you are aware, federal law prohibits a non-profit organization from participating in political activities. Please be advised there is a similar legal and absolute separation between a Member of Congress' official duties and campaign activities. Therefore, you should not direct campaign correspondence to my official office. Instead, refer your campaign correspondence to PO Box 1316, Springfield, OR 97478 or call (541) 485-1622. If you have official business as a resident of the 4th Congressional District, you can call the toll free phone number (800) 944-9603. Similarly, what is your campaign mailing address? You only provided a corporate post office box for your campaign.

I look forward to the opportunity to participate in debates and candidate forums with you during the general election. But be advised, the constraints of the congressional schedule will take precedence over political events. And debates should be formulated after all nominating conventions have finished on August 24, 2010, and the full slate of candidates is known. After that date, I will have my campaign contact yours to discuss a schedule and format.

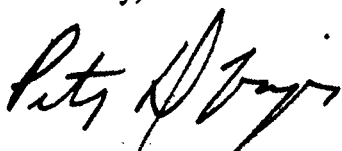
Oregonians have long looked to highly respected community organizations such as the League of Women Voters—a nonpartisan organization with a longstanding reputation for sponsoring highly regarded, informative debates—for well-run and balanced candidate forums. Their format allows for audience participation and questions to ensure that the broadest range of topics can be covered, which your proposed format excludes. I cannot agree to any debate format that denies voters the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates.

I want to ensure that voters throughout the district have a quality, issue-based exchange upon which they can make their decision in November. Debates are one of the most critical forums for the voters to hear the candidates' views. I look forward to a well run, geographically balanced slate of debates and forums with you and other candidates.

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May 27, 2010  
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Again, please do not use my official constituent email for political campaign correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter DeFazio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent than the last name "DeFazio".

Peter DeFazio

PAD:jg

c: League of Women Voters of Oregon  
Coos Bay League of Women Voters



PO Box 1250, Cave Junction, OR 97523  
541-255-2785

June 6, 2010

Peter Anthony DeFazio  
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. DeFazio:

This is my second request that you agree to meet me in debate in each of the seven counties of Oregon District 4. I also reiterate my request that you agree to debate face to face in a timed format (2 hours divided into 3 minute individual intervals), without interference from a political organization or any other third party.

Just as the voters of District 4 are concerned about the lack of transparency in the current U.S. Congress, they want and deserve transparency in these debates. In your letter of May 27, you indicated that you too want to “ensure that voters throughout the district have a quality, issue-based exchange... .” Therefore, you should embrace a format that is direct, forthright, distraction-free and candidate-to-candidate.

Concerning audience questions, I proposed in my previous letter that direct questioning by the public and press should follow the one-on-one debates. If you wish to formalize this, let’s agree to a specified time at the end of the debate for questions. The candidates can answer an equal number of questions from the audience, with answers timed for fairness.

Copying your letter to two chapters of the League of Women Voters was a nice try. As political organizations that would be expected to favor you in these debates, their participation would obviously be inappropriate.

I expect that, after reflection, you will decide to accept my challenge, since you now feel that “Debates are one of the most critical forums for voters to hear the Candidates’ views.” This reversal in your position, compared to the one you held during previous elections, is welcome. Apparently, there will be no need for a chicken suit this time.

Please consider that I am not your usual political opponent. I am a father, scientist, businessman, farmer, and 30-year resident of District 4 who has become so alarmed by the erosion of freedom and prosperity in my country that I am seeking office in order to reverse these trends, which are the direct result of actions by the U.S. Congress. Just like many other District 4 voters, I am looking forward to asking you questions about the role you have played in creating this situation

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during the past 23 years – and to giving you an opportunity to explain why you should not be held responsible.

Independent Party members will also be interested in your explanations, since you and I are the only candidates who filed for nomination by their party. Since their nomination is scheduled for July, postponing the scheduling of our debates until late August as you suggest would neglect these voters, who are also greatly concerned about Congressional actions.

In response to your statements about the propriety of my writing to you at your Washington office and about non-profit organizations, I will continue to write to you at your Washington office – the office where you are most usually found, with copies sent to the alternative address you provided.

More than 60% of your campaign funds in this election cycle have been donated by the many friendly unions and special interests that are delighted by the choices you have made in your Washington Congressional office, and most of your printed communication with District 4 voters, including regular newsletters, is mailed from your Washington office. You and your Congressional colleagues have, of course, made sure that these actions are lawful, but for you to imply that they are not campaign related is disingenuous.

Regarding “non-profits,” I think that the voters will agree that you are associated with a very “negative profit” organization, not a nonprofit. It would be woefully inadequate to describe the accumulation of more than \$11 trillion of the current \$13 trillion in national debt (approximately \$150,000 of average indebtedness that burdens every family in District 4) during your 12 terms of office as a “nonprofit” achievement.

I assume that you will not be offended by my use of the identical format of address and salutation that you have used in your letter to me. Ordinarily, one would include the titles of the correspondents and dispense with their middle names, as I did in my first letter to you, but you apparently prefer a different format.

Sincerely,

Art Robinson, PhD

P.S. You may have noticed that the Editor of the Albany Democrat-Herald, in an editorial dated June 6 (copy enclosed), agrees that the format I have specified would “be fun to listen to . . . without a lot of contrived questions being thrown in by a moderator . . . .” He wrote that, “It doesn’t mean that after years of traditional campaign events that are not real debates, an actual debate might not at least be tried.”

**CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFazio**

4th District, Oregon  
P O. Box 1316  
Springfield OR 97477  
[www.defazioforcongress.org](http://www.defazioforcongress.org)

June 16, 2010

Professor Arthur Robinson, PhD  
PO Box 1250  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 255-2785

Dear Professor Robinson:

I am writing in response to your second letter regarding debate scheduling and format. I regret the inadvertent omission of a proper honorific title in my first response.

I am committed to debating you and any other "minor" party nominees in the late summer or early fall when the electorate will begin to focus more closely on the November elections. As I stated previously I have concerns with your proposed format. Debates should properly focus on any number of concerns of interest to the diverse constituency of Oregonians in the fourth congressional district in addition to major federal issues.

After the August 24 deadline for nominating conventions, my campaign will contact yours and that of other nominees to discuss format, location and choice of moderator. I was quite surprised by your unfounded attack on the League of Women Voters as a partisan organization given their long and distinguished history as a neutral non-partisan political education organization. I would urge you or your campaign to research their credentials in the period before our campaigns discuss the debates.

Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio

PAD:jg



PO Box 1250, Cave Junction, OR 97523  
541-255-2785

June 22, 2010

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

This is my third request that you agree to meet me in debate in each of the seven counties of Oregon District 4. I also reiterate my previous two requests that you agree to debate face to face in a timed format (2 hours divided into 3 minute individual intervals), without interference from a political organization or any other third party.

In your two responses to my earlier requests, you have refused to even discuss scheduling of debates until late August and have strongly implied that you are opposed to real debate. Instead, you apparently wish to hide behind the skirts of the League of Women Voters of Oregon.

If you do not respond to this third letter in the affirmative and immediately enter into a productive and forthright discussion leading to a firm debate schedule, the Robinson campaign will proceed to arrange, schedule, and advertise these seven debates. These will be scheduled at times when Congress will not be in session, so that you will be able to attend. If you provide us with your schedule, we will endeavor to accommodate it. Our advertising will state that you have not yet agreed to participate, and that a surrogate of our choice will stand in for you if necessary. It is beginning to look as though we may need that chicken suit after all.

You complain that the format I have proposed worries you because the debates should focus on "concerns of interest to the diverse constituency of Oregonians in the fourth congressional district in addition to major federal issues." Surely, as a 12-term Congressman, you are capable of raising all of these concerns and issues during the 20 intervals of 3 minutes each that you are allotted in my proposed format. Moreover, any matters that you and I might overlook can be raised in the proposed constituent and press question period after the formal debate.

Why not agree to debate man to man rather than sending letters to me that really are beneath the dignity and courage of a member of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Further regarding that dignity, I have been astonished by your political campaign so far. Its two most recent actions serve as examples.

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Your campaign contacted the editor of the *Albany Democrat-Herald* and attempted to mislead him into attributing to me an article on ocean waste disposal. The article at issue was actually written by another scientist 24 years ago - who has been dead for 17 years. Fortunately, the editor checked your facts.

This was followed by an article in the *Advocate*, a publication by your party and campaign in Coos County, which contained numerous falsehoods about me and about scientific opinion regarding the failed hypothesis of man-made global warming. One of these falsehoods was a claim that I “surreptitiously modeled” a petition on the hypothesis of man-caused global warming, pretending publication by the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences*. This dishonorable claim is entirely false.

I have published six peer-reviewed articles in the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences* on several seminal subjects. Are you even capable of writing any article that would be suitable for consideration by that journal?

You seem to prefer falsehoods to open debate. I think, however, that voters will be able to discern the difference between reasoned discussion of the issues and your smear campaign.

In so far as your allegation that I have made an “unfounded attack on the League of Women Voters as a partisan organization” is concerned, I have not “attacked” them at all. Simple perusal of their web site immediately shows that the League has taken firm positions on one side or the other of numerous political issues that are important in this election. I see no reason to criticize them in any way for doing so, but they are hardly neutral on these matters.

Real debates are conducted between the debate contestants. Insertion of any third party, regardless of its affiliations, generally destroys the fundamental debate dynamic and prevents the viewers of the debate from witnessing an unadulterated view of the contestants and their positions. While it is understandable that a weak candidate would prefer to take refuge in the protection offered by an extraneous “moderator,” this is not in the best interests of those who seek the truth about the issues and the candidates.

Finally, I note that you refer to your debating “other ‘minor’ party nominees.” While I personally would never refer to even one District 4 voter as “minor,” either you or I will be serving District 4 in the next Congress. Please get used to the fact that I am your opponent and you will be either facing me directly in this election or will be running away from me and therefore be represented by more courageous, but less appropriate surrogates.

Sincerely,

Art Robinson, PhD

# CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFazio

4th District, Oregon  
P. O. Box 1316  
Springfield OR 97477  
[www.defazioforcongress.org](http://www.defazioforcongress.org)

June 29, 2010

Professor Art Robinson, PhD  
PO Box 1250  
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Dear Professor Robinson:

I am writing in response to your third letter on debates. You continue to raise issues about debates that have long been settled. I am writing to clarify the apparent misreading of previous correspondence on this issue by you or your campaign.

### **Agreement on debates**

You have written me several times requesting we hold debates (May 18th, June 6th, June 22nd). I have responded to you on each occasion (May 27th, June 16th) that I agree we should schedule debates. I once again reiterate my commitment to debate you. The question of holding debates has never been in contention. To continue to contend otherwise is specious.

### **Number of debates**

You have written you would like to hold seven debates in each county of the 4th congressional district (May 18th, June 6th, June 22nd). I have found four debates have sufficiently provided access to the candidates on major issues. I continue to insist these debates be geographically balanced (May 27th).

### **Format of debates**

You propose the format of debates be two hours long with each candidate speaking for three minute intervals (May 18th, May 6th, June 22nd). I do not concur with this format. I instead propose a format that best allows issues of interest to be raised and that allows for audience participation. I want to ensure that the broadest ranges of topics are covered. I have already written that a format which denies audience participation is not one that I can agree to.

As for your contention I or any candidate, "hide(s) behind the skirts of the League of Women Voters of Oregon," (June 22nd) is opprobrious of the League -- an organization that is decidedly non-political which attracts participants because of its renowned well-run debates format. Your ongoing derogatory comments about this organization are astounding.



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4th District, Oregon  
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Perhaps more importantly because of their community standing and highly regarded format that emphasizes audience questions, these debates are well-attended and attract media attention. I assume you would agree that we wish to reach the broadest possible audience with these debates.

## Timing of debates

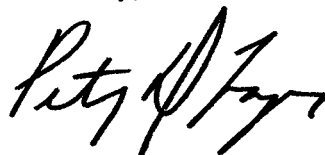
In your most recent letter, you have written that you will set dates without waiting for the conclusion of all political parties to conclude their nomination conventions. I do not concur that these candidates and their interests should be excluded. I reiterate it is my belief that once all political parties have completed their nominating conventions we schedule debates. I also prefer debates be scheduled after Labor Day when the greatest number of citizens are able to attend debates. It has never been an issue to schedule debates across the district during this period. I don't foresee a reason it will be problematic this cycle.

I hope your participation in debate negotiations doesn't devolve into political stunts. Those types of antics maybe useful in a case where a candidate is avoiding debates. That is not the case in this instance.

You have introduced a range of extraneous issues in your letters that have nothing to do with setting a debate schedule. I concur it is unfortunate the *Huffington Post* did poor research in its piece by not attributing comments about nuclear waste to your predecessor. However, debates will offer an opportunity for you to expound upon your own ideas on the benefits of disposing of nuclear waste in our oceans (*Access to Energy*, July 2002), or diluting nuclear waste, "to a low radiation level and sprinkle it over the ocean or even over America," (*Access to Energy*, April 1997), or even that the, "best place for [nuclear] waste is in the concrete foundations and insulation of homes and building." (*Access to Energy*, September 2003).

I continue to be committed to have my campaign staff follow-up with your campaign staff after the deadline for nominating conventions has been completed to discuss format, locations, and choice of a moderator.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio

PAD:jg





PO Box 1250, Cave Junction, OR 97523  
541-255-2785

July 9, 2010

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

This is my fourth request that you agree to meet me in debate once in each of the seven counties of Oregon District 4, which provides an ideal geographical balance. I again reiterate my previous three requests that you agree to debate face to face in a timed format (2 hours divided into 3 minute individual intervals), without interference from any other third party. I have been making these written requests to you since May 18.

In your most recent letter to me of June 29, 2010, you continue to refuse to schedule these debates, claiming deference to other political parties. You have now used up a large part of the available election cycle by stalling with this specious objection. If I were to permit you to wait, as you demand, until late August to schedule debates, most of these events could not take place until after the scheduled Congressional recess in October, one week before election ballots are mailed to the voters. Thus, your stalling appears actually to be an effort to minimize debate.

The Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Constitution, and Green parties have all completed their selections of candidates. Voting in the Independent Party primary is still under way, but you and I are the only candidates in that primary. With all of these parties considered, you and I are still the only candidates for U.S. House of Representatives in District 4 with the exception of the Green Party, whose views I expect that you will be pleased to represent.

In my third letter, I told you that "If you do not respond to this third letter in the affirmative and immediately enter into a productive and forthright discussion leading to a firm debate schedule, the Robinson campaign will proceed to arrange, schedule, and advertise these seven debates. These will be scheduled at times when Congress will not be in session, so that you will be able to attend. If you provide us with your schedule, we will endeavor to accommodate it. Our advertising will state that you have not yet agreed to participate and that a surrogate of our choice will stand in for you if necessary."

Accordingly, with diminishing time remaining until the election, the first two of these seven debates have been scheduled, the facilities rented, and advertising commenced. The other debates are being scheduled. We will welcome your participation in this process.

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The first debate will occur at the Valley River Inn in Eugene on August 12, 2010 at 6:00 pm. A VIP dinner before the debate has been provided courtesy of the Valley River Inn. We will be delighted to have you and members of your staff join me and members of my staff at that dinner.

The second debate will occur on August 17 at 6:00 pm at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg.

Let me be clear that you will be treated with utmost courtesy in these debates; will have your choice of speaking first or second; and will have exactly the same speaking privileges as will I. The same complete fairness will also govern the question and answer periods for the general public and media following the debates.

The format will be a true debate format, wherein the participants – you and I – speak alternately for timed intervals. No moderator or other third party except for a time keeper will participate. We can question each other; discuss any issue we wish; or use our time in any other way that we feel productive. If you wish to use computer presentations or any other medium of communication, please let us know in advance so that your requirements can be accommodated.

This debate format follows a time honored tradition descended from the famous Lincoln – Douglas debates, which also involved seven debate events. You mention a preference for only four debates. Which three counties in District 4 do you consider should be excluded?

The oratorical customs of Lincoln's time involved much longer speaking intervals than are customary today. I have proposed short speaking intervals to allow for coverage of a large number of issues and to conform to modern oratorical customs. You are free to use as many of your intervals on a single topic as you wish. Timed audience question and answer periods will follow the formal debates. We are, of course, still open to your suggestions about the debate details, but we are quite firm that these debates will take place and that no third party will speak or participate (other than a time keeper) except, of course, surrogates for you if you do not attend.

Sincerely,

Art Robinson, PhD