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ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

P. JERRY ORRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 19, 1979

Mr. Jim Schuman
American Enterprises Institute
Room 712, 1100 17th Street
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Schuman:

The Association of Oregon Counties would like to request the appearance of former President Gerald Ford at our Wednesday evening reception at the Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Willamette Suite. This is the first welcoming reception of our meeting entitled, coincidentally, "President's "Reception" in honor of our AOC President.

The Association traditionally holds an annual conference for three days each year and this is the 74th such conference. We have met in Eugene for the last four years to take advantage of not only a fine meeting facility but some of the educational resources available from the University of Oregon. For instance, we often use experts from the University to present new research and approaches to county management, and the resolution of major county issues. The Association, in fact, has contracted for the last several years with the University of Oregon Bureau of Governmental Research and Service to conduct research on specific issues in addition to providing legal counsel and technical assistance in addressing several issues before the Oregon Legislature. In addition, the Bureau has been responsible for preparing several model ordinances for counties and conducting training seminars for county officials at the request of the Association. Further, the Association has been active in encouraging counties to utilize Oregon college students in internship programs both to the benefit of the county and to the education of the student. Several of these interns from the University of Oregon, Oregon State, and Willamette University, have found employment in the ranks of county government after such internship. In addition, several county officials and Association staff serve to advise various graduate schools at Oregon universities in addition to being visiting lecturers on local government.

Overall, Jim, I think its fair to say that the Association and its membership of all 36 Oregon counties has been quite active with educational programs offered through this state and continually seeks to improve that relationship in order to improve county government and encourage recent graduates into the field of county management and services. With that background and with the convenience of having our

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reception located only a few feet from where former President Ford will be with University guests on Wednesday evening, we would respectfully request that the former President briefly stop by to address our Association membership. We plan to set up a P.A. system in one corner of the room for the former President to make a few remarks. We also do not intend to publicize his appearance at our conference so as to not interfere with his responsibilities as a visiting lecturer. We think his appearance would be of great benefit to our Association and its members and further fulfill his purpose in promoting education.

We look forward to your favorable response in this request.

Sincerely,



Gordon G. Fultz
Executive Assistant

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