

# Lonsdale launches campaign for Hatfield's seat

By Brad Cain  
Associated Press

SALEM — Treading where many others have failed, Bend businessman Harry Lonsdale says he's going to puncture Sen. Mark Hatfield's aura of invincibility by exposing how "out of step" Hatfield is with Oregon voters.

Lonsdale, who's never before run for public office, knows he's biting off quite a bit by mounting a bid for the U.S. Senate against a man who's had one of the most illustrious political careers in Oregon history.

"Some wiseacre told me, 'Why not run for president and get it over with?'" Lonsdale joked.

But the 58-year-old Lonsdale, a staunch environmentalist, is serious about trying to knock off Hatfield.

And he's putting his money where his mouth is.

The successful businessman, who faces five little-known challengers in the May Democratic primary, said he intends to spend at least several hundred thousand dollars of his own money on his Senate campaign.

"I'm lucky," he said. "I have enough money where I can do this and not end up broke."

Lonsdale has already hired a seven-member campaign staff, rented an office in downtown Portland to serve as his campaign headquarters and gotten himself a Portland apartment for the duration of the campaign.

Why go to all of that effort — not to mention the large, out-of-pocket expense — to take on someone like Hatfield, who's never lost a race in his four decades in politics?

After all, in 1984 the Oregon Republican won re-election to a fourth Senate term by the largest margin of victory in his Senate career, even though at the time he was being dogged by questions about his ties with a Greek financier.

"He is damn near invincible, but so were Al Ullman and Wayne Morse," Lonsdale said.

referring to two other powerful Oregon congressmen who eventually were defeated at the polls.

Lonsdale, in an interview, said he thinks Hatfield has lost touch with the state and has become vulnerable because "he doesn't represent mainstream Oregon thinking on some key issues."

Chief among those issues, Lonsdale said, are old growth timber and abortion.

Lonsdale accused Hatfield of selling out Oregon's forests by taking a leading role in a congressional compromise that allowed for the harvesting of some old growth trees.

Lonsdale, whose high-tech Bend Research Inc. employs about 80 people, said timber companies have "butchered" old growth forests.

"I look out of a lot of airplane windows. It looks pretty

grim to me," he said. "These forests represent our quality of life. That's the reason I moved to Oregon 18 years ago."

What the state needs to do, he said, is to prohibit logging in old growth forests and ban the export of raw logs.

"The truth of the matter is that log exports have caused the timber supply crunch, not environmentalists hugging

trees," he said.

On abortion, Lonsdale said Hatfield's longstanding opposition to abortion has become a major issue now that the U.S. Supreme Court has given the states more leeway to restrict abortions.

Lonsdale said most Oregonians favor legalized abortions, but few are aware of Hatfield's stance on the issue.

"We're going to do our best to at least get his position known," he said. "Men and women are upset about this choice issue."

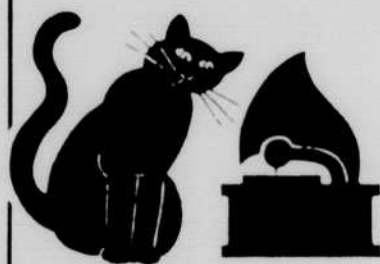
The Bend businessman said he thinks that in general, Hatfield has stayed too long in Congress and has accepted too much special interest money to be able to vote independently.

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