



**"A NEW DAWN OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IS AT HAND." — BARACK OBAMA**



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

# NEXT?

## DeFazio on the exciting hope of change under Obama

BY ALAN PITTMAN

**C**ongressman Peter DeFazio spoke to *Eugene Weekly* on the eve of Barack Obama's sweeping victory. The populist and popular local Congressman was widely quoted in the national media for his leadership in opposing the \$700 billion federal bailout of

Wall Street. DeFazio will also write a new multi-billion-dollar transportation bill as chair of a key House subcommittee. DeFazio spoke of running for governor, county payments, the financial crisis, gas prices and the exciting change that Democratic control of the White House and Congress may bring.

**News reports have you 'thinking out loud' about running for governor in 2010. Is that true?**

This is not the time. I'm totally focused on getting Obama as president and looking forward to dramatic changes in the direction for the country.

I'm looking forward to writing the first 21st century transportation bill. Everything we have done so far has just basically been an iteration on the Eisenhower era of a national highway system, and it is time to move beyond that to a system that is both more environmentally friendly and more fuel efficient and less congested. I hope to take what I call a least cost transportation approach which would include a whole bunch of factors such as fuel and carbon, in addition to monetary cost. I got to get this transportation bill done, and then that would give me an opportunity to think about other things.

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