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# AuCoin offers to debate

SALEM (AP) — U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin is asking challenger Harry Lonsdale to agree to debate him in their campaign for the Democratic nomination to the U. S. Senate.

"I want this to be a campaign which reflects Oregonians' hopes, desires and concerns, and the best way to go about that is to ensure a full and frank discussion on a variety of issues," AuCoin said in a statement issued Thursday.

Lonsdale aide Dana Hanson Nehl said the Bend businessman would consider the request and respond.

AuCoin is giving up his First District House seat to run for the Democratic nomination to the Senate seat held by Republican Bob Packwood, who's seeking re-election.

Lonsdale mounted a strong challenge to Republican U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield in the 1990 general election.