

Oregon Democrat won't run for re-election

by UPI

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley, D-Ore., announced Thursday she will not seek re-election this year to a seventh term in Congress. The 68-year-old Oregon Democrat had health problems late last year. She told The (Portland) Oregonian that her health was not a reason for her decision. She said part of the reason she was leaving office was the constant fundraising and the need to fly almost every weekend between Oregon and Washington. "At some point in everybody's life you have to decide, how much longer do I want to do this?" she said. "It's time to move on." Hooley was first elected to Congress in 1996. She represents Oregon's Republican-leaning 5th Congressional District, which runs through the Willamette Valley. She won her district in 2006 with 54 percent of the vote against GOP challenger Mike Erickson, who received 43 percent. She beat another Republican challenger in 2004, with 53 percent of the vote. Hooley had \$467,540 in campaign cash at the end of 2007, according to campaign finance reports cited by the newspaper.

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