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****PRESS RELEASE****

For Immediate Release

CHRIS DUDLEY DECLINES INVITATION TO DEBATE OPPONENT AT CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

(Portland, OR, September 7, 2010). City Club of Portland regrets that Oregon gubernatorial candidate Chris Dudley has declined an invitation to participate in a City Club Friday Forum debate with his opponent, John Kitzhaber. City Club extended an invitation to both candidates to debate the issues over a month ago, offering the option of multiple dates, but received official word this Tuesday that Dudley has chosen not to appear.

The fact that Kitzhaber has accepted City Club's invitation entitles him to appear at a Friday Forum debate with or without Dudley. Long-standing City Club policy is to honor a debate invitation that is accepted, even though a two-person debate would be more in keeping with the Club's mission and voters' best interests. The Kitzhaber forum will be held on Friday, October 8, at noon at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland.

City Club of Portland is widely recognized for conducting fair, open and carefully formatted political debates. The Club is the most experienced organization at hosting debates of any forum in Oregon. All candidates appearing at City Club debates are treated equally and with respect. Questions to debaters are developed by a panel of City Club members and are not allowed from the audience. No audience expressions of support or opposition are permitted. An impartial person is chosen to moderate the debate. Questions are closely timed and are prepared to be balanced and expository.

City Club believes that the race between Dudley and Kitzhaber deserves full exposure to as many Oregon voters as possible. City Club's Friday Forum live audience usually exceeds 400 for political debates, reaches more than 15,000 public radio listeners statewide and is distributed on cable television.

Over the many decades that City Club has hosted political debates, there have been only five single chair debates, as it has been highly unusual for a candidate to refuse a Club invitation. City Club will welcome Dudley should he change his mind and decide to attend.

ABOUT CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

City Club of Portland is a 94 year-old, nonprofit, nonpartisan civic affairs organization that promotes civic engagement and active citizenship to build a stronger community. Through unbiased research and compelling programs, City Club connects citizens with ideas and issues that affect our community. City Club is open to everyone who wants to interact with other citizens and shape the future of our city, region and state, providing a neutral forum for many diverse voices. For more information about City Club of Portland, visit www.pdxcityclub.org or call 503-228-7231.

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