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Honorable Governor Atiyeh:

Our Ref. ____

Mr. Jun Takata, Vice President of Marubeni America Corporation, is on a business trip. He asked me to convey a message to you. Unfortunately, his message was written in Japanese, so I must translate.

"Governor and Mrs. Atiyeh, my wife and I will miss you. I hope Oregon and the U.S.A. can find ways to use your talents to benefit all of our regional and international interests. Congratulations for your successful two terms and good luck for the future. Hopefully, the new administration will be as friendly to us Japanese as yours was.

I have learned a lot from you. The most impressive things to me are your lifestyle and attitudes as a statesman. I hate to say it, but in Japan it's difficult, if not impossible, to meet real statesmen who devote themselves like you do to the state and public.

We have met many politicians, both in Japan and America. As soon as they discover we don't have voting rights, they lose interest in us - but not you.

Governor Atiyeh, I understand you have tried to develop a better relationship between Japan and Oregon both in economic and cultural areas with your strong leadership. You have given us close and easy access to your government through associates such as Mr. Tom Kennedy, here tonight, who has assisted us in finding new business opportunities in Oregon and solutions to other problems such as Japanese school buildings.

We could compare the number of Japanese companies of which representatives are sitting here tonight to that of five years ago as evidence of your success.

Governor and Mrs. Atiyeh, thank you. We will miss you."

Finally, as for myself and my wife Keiko together with Mr. and Mrs. Takata's appreciation, would like to say a hearty congratulations on your success and good luck on your new challenges.

Thank you.

n-ichi Takata