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Lt. Gov. Jari Askins to Host 2009 Invitational Turkey Hunt

OKLAHOMA CITY – This week Lt. Gov. Jari Askins will host business and economic development leaders from across the country during the annual Lieutenant Governor's Invitational Turkey Hunt. Activities are planned in Alva, Duncan, Okemah, Woodward and Hugo. The kickoff luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Established by Democratic Lt. Governor Robert Kerr, the Invitational Turkey Hunt was part of a program to attract economic development prospects to Oklahoma. "It was a natural fit for the Lieutenant Governor's office to host this event; hunting is a top tourism attraction. Coupling it with economic development opportunities is a smart match for the state," Askins noted.

According to Askins, the guest list is made up of corporate officers, site selectors and economic development professionals from some of the country's top companies. "This multi-day event gives the state and the individual communities the opportunity to display Oklahoma's tremendous assets while holding the undivided attention of these business representatives," Askins said.

Participants for the event are submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and host communities. Commerce officials match site selectors with the individual communities.

Askins said the event's continued success can be attributed to tremendous partnerships. She acknowledged the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife Conservation and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as partners for 2009.

"I am proud to carry on this longstanding tradition during my tenure as Lieutenant Governor," Askins said. "Not only are we working to bolster economic development, but we are also helping to promote and preserve the time-honored sport of hunting."