

Public testimony by Kate Power & Steve Einhorn, former owners of Artichoke Music (1981-2006), Oregon folksingers, songwriters, community-builders

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<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Testimony/HRULES>

Dear Oregon Legislators,

We have become aware of bills HCR 11 and HCR 2329 (the Salinas bill) in reference to a process for updating the Oregon State Song. The current song is so filled with racist, anti-American, inequitable sentiments, that a true Oregonian would be ashamed and embarrassed to sing it. The State song is outdated, inappropriate, alienating, and reflects poorly on the better nature of the citizenry of Oregon.

The democratic approach in the Salinas bill would create an opportunity to curate a song that reflects Oregon, a song from the people, for the people, and about ALL the people, not just the rich white ones. A new State song would manifest an intention by the legislature to unify the diverse population with the power of song that reflects the beauty of our home and universal aspirations. A song that inspires people to sing it builds bridges across differences.

Oregon's current State song is a liability and instigates division with racist, fear-based lyrics. The process to adopt a unifying State song will reinspire Oregonians with a new sense of possibility to reject bigotry and embrace the work of harmony in true Oregon spirit.

Please pass the Salinas bill so that all generations of Oregonians will have a good song to sing that breaks the mold of the old one and accepts all of us in the chorus. Thank you for your support of the Salinas Bill to give us a song we can feel, sing and share.

With appreciation from your dedicated community-builders in song,

Kate Power

Composer of 'Travis John' Music to Life grand-prize winner for "songs that make a difference"

Co-Owner Artichoke Music

Portland, Oregon

Steve Einhorn

Owner Artichoke Music (1981-2006)

Portland, Oregon