

April 15, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair, Senate Republican Leader

RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, honoring Senator Jackie Winters

Please accept my written testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 – honoring the life and legacy of Senator Jackie Winters. The resolution does a wonderful job outlining her life and her commitment to the betterment of the State of Oregon. She was an inspiring person and leader and will have an imprint on this state and our community for a very long time.

Senator Jackie Winters was the matriarch of our community. Her leadership, mentorship and friendship were something special and not replaceable. When she had an idea, she had a unique way of making sure we all got on board and together we accomplished great things. She had a way of looking at you and you know that you were about to be involved in some new project that will have a widespread impact on improving our community. And she always led the charge, out working, pushing hard, making sure we got past the finish line.

May 29th 2019 I was sitting on the House floor and Republican leader Carl Wilson indicated that he wanted to talk with me and we ducked into the phone booth at the back of the chamber. I am forever grateful that he took me aside a few minutes before Speaker Kotek announced to the chamber that Senator Winters had passed away. I remember simply being stunned, because despite knowing she was sick, I, like many others, believed she would pull through and join us back at the Capitol. She was simply larger than life, and I couldn't imagine her not leading our community and the legislature for many more years.

Senator Winters had a tremendous impact on me personally. I supported her first campaign for Oregon House when my now 24 year old daughter was just an infant. Most of my adult life and political world was heavily impacted by this woman, who was an incredible trailblazer in so many ways. And in all her efforts for Oregon and beyond, she never lost sight of personal connection and friendships. She was a wonderful hostess, amazing chef, and simply a fun person to be around. She had so much energy and so many interesting thoughts and words to share. I was particularly touched when she would talk about my mom and bring her into situations. She knew how much I missed her and she was quick with shared memories that were a blessing. I loved her husband Ted, and am so grateful that I have memories of them as a couple. He was her biggest supporter and she was his. They were something special.

There are simply no words to adequately describe her. And I have thought more than once this past year how much Oregon could use her leadership today. It is right and fitting that she be honored in this way and I am grateful to lend my support of the passage of SCR 10.

Sincerely,

Denyc Boles
Salem, OR