

“Good afternoon and thank you House Chairs and House of Representatives and members of the Committee. My name is Marsha Peoples Jack, I live in Portland, Oregon and I am representing our daughter Jenelle Jack who is the Director of Juneteenth OR, I’m the Secretary. Jenelle Jack is the granddaughter and I’m the daughter of the late Mrs. Clara Peoples.

“I support” House Bill 2168 bill Juneteenth State Holiday

If you Google “Mother of Juneteenth” (pause) Clara Peoples pops up as the reference. My Mom, Mrs. Peoples introduced Portland to Juneteenth while working at the shipyards in 1945. June 19th known as Juneteenth, is the actual date of freedom from slavery. (pause) This is a day of celebration, engaging, learning, coming together of communities and diversity. The city of Portland recognized Juneteenth celebrations in 1972 and each year Mrs. Peoples organized a celebration in N/NE Portland with entertainment and a parade. Four years after Mrs. Peoples passed away, one of my Mom’s dreams was accomplished (pause) when in 2019 Mayor Ted Wheeler stated that Portland will recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. It would be a total dream come true if the vote will be in favor for House Bill 2168

Thank you for this opportunity.