

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member of National Garden clubs, Inc.



April 18, 2023

Senator James I. Manning Jr., Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
900 Court St, NE S-209
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 2146

Dear Senator Manning,

Thank you and Vice Chair Thatcher and the other Committee members for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2146. If HB 2146 becomes law, Oregon will honor 6,022 Gold Star Families with honorific highway signs on the 477 mile "Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway" on US Hwy 30 across Oregon to the Idaho border and beyond until it reaches the Eastern seaboard.

Anticipating your support in officially naming Oregon Gold Star Families Highway, OSFGC Executive Committee voted unanimously to fund two Gold Star Memorial Markers: one in Astoria and one in Ontario. American Legion Veterans in each city have arranged permanent locations in Veterans Memorial Parks in each city. These permanent Gold Star Markers will always remind us of the veterans we honor for the freedom of today. OSFGC members are rallying to fund these two markers. It is bringing us together across the state as our goal is for every member to say, "I helped fund this marker."

On behalf of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and the 2,130 garden club members across Oregon, I urge this Committee to unanimously vote in favor of HB 2146 with a "Do Pass" recommendation to the Oregon Senate.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions the Committee may have. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jane Sercombe, Veterans Liaison, Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
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