

## **Testimony in Support of Honoring the History of Black Drag in Oregon**

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Pham and members of the committee on rules,

I am writing to offer my support for the amendment honoring the rich and important history of Black drag in Oregon. As we celebrate diversity, culture, and the contributions of marginalized communities, it is crucial that we acknowledge and uplift the legacy of Black drag artists who have shaped and enriched our cultural landscape.

Black drag performers have long been at the forefront of challenging societal norms, pushing boundaries, and creating spaces of inclusivity and expression. Their artistry, courage, and resilience have not only entertained but have also served as powerful tools for advocacy and social change. In Oregon, these performers have paved the way for future generations, creating a legacy that deserves to be recognized and celebrated.

From community events to iconic performances, Black drag artists in Oregon have been integral in fostering a sense of unity, joy, and empowerment within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly for Black and queer individuals who have faced both racial and societal challenges. The contributions of artists such as Lady Elaine Peacock, Misty Waters, Rosey Waters, Poison Waters, Cicely, Lawanda Jackson, Ervina, The Marvelous Marvella and many more have often gone underappreciated, and it is time to correct that by formally honoring their history.

By supporting this amendment, we are acknowledging not just the artistry and creativity of these individuals, but also their courage in the face of adversity, and the role they have played in shaping Oregon's cultural identity. This recognition will not only affirm the value of Black drag artists but will also inspire and empower future generations to continue pushing forward with authenticity and pride.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting this important amendment. I stand in full support of this recognition and urge you to consider the lasting impact of Black drag history in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
William Hinkly