

February 21, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
Attn: Senate Committee on Rules  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**President**  
Erik Andersson

**2024-2025**  
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Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Strategic Economic Development Corporation, I would like to wholeheartedly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, honoring John McArdle for his more than 25 years of service as mayor to the City of Independence.

Mayor McArdle exemplifies servant leadership and inspires those around him to follow in kind. Under his leadership, the City of Independence has become an example of how a community can transform its plans into action. The City of Independence is a vibrant, diverse community that celebrates its history while investing in infrastructure (both utility and social) to foster economic vitality for its current and future residents.

When people visit Independence and experience the revitalized downtown, the active waterfront park and the new housing and hotel developments, they often label it an “overnight success,” which is far from the truth. The community’s success is the result of decades of groundwork laid under the consistent leadership of Mayor McArdle, its most fervent cheerleader. Today’s Independence has been shaped by public visioning, state and federal agency involvement and public and private sector investment. It’s one thing to encourage public visioning and community planning, it’s quite another to prioritize implementation, and Mayor McArdle has been steadfast in his passion for making those plans become reality.

His willingness to share his secrets for success with other mayors and elected officials has encouraged community leaders around Oregon to emulate the Independence model. He is passionate about economic development, and the Mid-Valley region served by SEDCOR has benefited from his example. He has always been a champion for SEDCOR and I personally look to him as a mentor and friend as well as a respected local leader.

With his term of service as Mayor having concluded after 26 years, I very much appreciate the opportunity to share SEDCOR’s support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, honoring Mayor John McArdle. SEDCOR joins you in recognizing the important work that he has done during his tenure and the lasting impression that his leadership leaves on our communities.

Sincerely,



Erik Andersson  
President