



**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

1800 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351

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Ben Stange, Fire Chief

Central Fire Station  
Station #90  
1800 Monmouth St  
Independence

Airlie  
Station #80  
14775 Airlie Rd  
Monmouth

Pedee  
Station #70  
12485 Kings Valley  
Monmouth

Buena Vista  
Station #40  
11350 Church St  
Independence

**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Rules**

**From: Ben Stange, Fire Chief**  
Polk County Fire District No.1

**Date: February 24, 2025**

**Re: SCR 18 – Testimony in Support**

**Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,**

On behalf of **Polk County Fire District No.1**, I am honored to provide this testimony in support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, which recognizes and honors John McArdle for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the City of Independence and the State of Oregon. Having worked closely with Mayor McArdle for many years, I can attest to his unwavering commitment to the well-being and safety of our community.

Throughout his 25 years of service as mayor, John McArdle exemplified visionary leadership that not only fostered growth and innovation but also prioritized public safety. His collaborative approach strengthened the relationship between the City of Independence and Polk County Fire District No.1, ensuring that emergency services were well-supported and equipped to meet the evolving needs of our residents. Additionally, his leadership in fostering economic growth has contributed to a thriving community where both residents and first responders can live and work with confidence.

On a personal note, I have witnessed firsthand Mayor McArdle's genuine care for the safety and well-being of our community members. His support for our Fire District has been invaluable, from advocating for resources to ensuring that our voices are heard. His collaborative spirit, coupled with his deep-rooted passion for public service, has left an indelible mark on our District and the greater Independence area.

In recognition of his exemplary service and lifelong dedication, I wholeheartedly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 18. I urge the Oregon State Legislature to adopt this resolution and honor John McArdle for his remarkable contributions to our community and the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ben Stange, Fire Chief  
Polk County Fire District No.1