

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs,

I write in strong support of SCR 23, to create a sister state relationship between the state of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine. I feel especially happy about bringing this mutually beneficial relationship into being, as these two groups of people have much in common and much to share.

During the past three years, I've had the opportunity to hear some amazing Ukrainian musicians perform here in Portland, with beauty and passion. We've also been able to provide emotional and financial support to a visual artist in Ukraine, who has shown work here in Portland a few years ago. These connections through the arts are vivid ways to connect as freedom-loving people. I am a true believer in the power of the arts to communicate and make lasting connections with other members of our human family.

Making bridges across divides is the way we grow and develop, together, for the benefit of all.

I urge you to support SCR 23 to demonstrate Oregon's steadfast dedication to such global partnerships and for the defense of freedom and democracy. Thank you so much for considering this resolution.

Sincerely,
Janet Stein
Christopher Rauschenberg