

Submitter: Gary Griffin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR23

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

I am writing to express my strong support for SCR 23, which establishes a sister state relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast. I am a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and a retired English as a Second Language instructor from Lane Community College. I think the sister state relationship will foster educational and cultural exchanges that deepen ties between Oregon and Cherkasy. Over the past three years, the American-Ukrainian partnership has been critical to Ukraine's survival, as the Ukrainian people have fought bravely to defend the same values of democracy, freedom, and human rights that the United States represents on the world stage. Yet too few Americans have had the opportunity to visit Ukraine or engage directly with Ukrainians.

The creation of this sister state relationship not only builds bridges but it helps both Oregonians and Ukrainians realize that we live in a shared world and are interdependent on one another.

I have learned from my Peace Corps experience and my teaching experience that when we can personalize relationships we develop more empathy and compassion and I believe this sister state relationship will oils foster that.

Thank you for your consideration.