

Submitter: Andrea Cano

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR23

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

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for SCR 23, to establish a Sister State relationship between the State of Oregon and the Cherkasy Oblast in Ukraine, which I believe would be mutually beneficial on so many fronts.

First, both states have various ecological micro-regions, robust agricultural, manufacturing and evolving high tech industries, wherein each would benefit from perusing the myriad products and the systems that ensure environmental sustainability and profitability, attention to securing and maintaining a qualified labor force, and perhaps exploring the opportunity for bi-lateral trade.

Second, Oregon's population has steadily been enriched with Ukrainian people who began migrating here in the 1990's, with subsequent generations born here since then, and augmented recently with at least 4,000 or so adults, youth, and children who began fleeing their homeland three years year ago during the brutal invasion by Russia. Many of us in Oregon are steadfast in advocating for the well-being of the Ukrainian community here and their sovereignty a world away.

Third, the intention for a Sister State is the intention for community building that transcends borders and politics and dollar figures. It fosters a prismatic curiosity to come face to face and learn so much more about one another, respect one another, and most importantly understand - not assume - how best to affirm and support one another at any given time.

It is also in the knowing of the heart and the soul of the collective community, can we appreciate each of our historical pasts, our current challenges and celebrations, so we may remain enduring co-journers into the future. That is my hope for the Cherkasy Oblast-State of Oregon Sister State endeavor.