

Submitter: Mary Beth Hustoles

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,

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. This resolution represents a significant step in strengthening economic and cultural ties between our communities and reaffirms Oregon's unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they defend their sovereignty and democracy. It would be an indicator, to the people of Ukraine, that the current US administration cannot sever the ties and concerns that individual Americans have with their country.

In addition to economic partnerships, 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 has represented on the world stage. Yet too few Americans have had the opportunity to visit Ukraine or engage directly with Ukrainians — and too many Ukrainians know the United States only through headlines. By creating opportunities for student and faculty exchanges, joint academic research, cultural exchange programs, and institutional partnerships, this relationship will strengthen both regions' commitment to education, cultural diplomacy, and international understanding. With more than 9,000 cultural heritage sites and 300 sacred places, Cherkasy's rich history makes it an ideal partner in the effort to foster understanding and awareness between Ukrainians and Americans.

The creation of this sister state relationship not only builds bridges between our regions but also honors Oregon's long-standing commitment to human rights, democracy, and international cooperation. This partnership will serve as a symbol of solidarity and a practical step toward supporting Ukraine's economic and social development during this critical time.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important resolution.

Sincerely,