

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
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RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

March 17, 2025

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, members of the Committee, and Senators,

Thank you for honoring and celebrating Peter Courtney – and so fitting to do so today, on St. Patrick's Day.

I join the many Oregonians who continue to grieve his loss. Peter was a true force of nature, whose larger-than-life personality was only matched by his tireless work ethic.

Throughout his remarkable, record-setting, more than 40 years of service to our state, Peter was unwavering in his passion for animal rights, mental health services, education, veterans, and the success of working families.

I had a front row seat to see Peter in action. When I was Oregon House Speaker, Peter was Senate President. We worked closely together to pass major bills that have become central to Oregon, including creating the state's first-ever rainy day fund to support schools, strengthening the Oregon Bottle Bill, and championing LGBTQ+ rights and protections.

Working with Peter made all of us better legislators and better people, regardless of party. He was scrappy, he was honest, and his love for Oregon and its people shown through everything he did. This is the legacy Peter leaves behind in Oregon politics and in the lives of everyday Oregon families he helped, a legacy that will echo for generations.

Margie: My heart is with you and your family. May Peter's memory be a blessing.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator