

# Oregon Department of Justice

Office of the Attorney General

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Date: March 17, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Attorney General Dan Rayfield

Re: Honoring Peter Courtney, SCR 10

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

It's an honor to submit a few words about my dear friend, the late Senator Peter Courtney. He was a constant source of wisdom, humor and leadership in Oregon, and was one of those people who I genuinely loved working with. I had the privilege of working closely with him, and I can honestly say there's no one quite like him.

I also really enjoyed getting to know him when I stepped into the Speaker role and watching Peter and then Governor Kate Brown banter. They had a playful dynamic that broke the tension during serious moments. It's the kind of energy that made working with Peter a joy. He had this way of making even the hardest days feel lighter. He would often send me humorous texts during serious or important meetings. I still have one saved on my phone from a budget session, when he wrote that he was "going to spend every penny."

Peter was known for reaching across the aisle and he was really interested in hearing other people's stories. His legacy goes beyond the laws he helped shape. In addition to all the amazing things he accomplished for the state, I always admired how he was able to concurrently prioritize his family—and this was before it was acceptable or "cool". It's rare to see someone so dedicated to their work and yet still put their kids first the way he did.

It was an amazing honor to have the privilege of working with him. His legacy will undoubtedly pass on to future generations of legislators, community leaders and public servants.

Sincerely,

Dan Rayfield

Attorney General of Oregon