



**Testimony of Tobias Read, Oregon Secretary of State
In Support of SCR 10
Senate Committee on Rules
March 17, 2025**

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

I can't think of anyone more deserving of recognition by the Oregon Legislature than Peter Courtney, so it is my honor to submit testimony in support of SCR 10 commemorating his extraordinary life and legacy. Peter's unwavering dedication to Oregon and our people left an indelible mark on our state.

Peter chose Oregon, and his journey from West Virginia to Salem was intentional. It obviously suited him, and his record as Oregon's longest-serving legislator is a testament to his love and commitment to public service and Oregon. People could hear it as he said, "Oregon, my Oregon."

His love for the legislature was legendary, as was his statesmanship and his unique ability to nurture unusual and unexpected coalitions for the betterment of Oregonians. He loved an underdog. Some of his most notable accomplishments were in the most sensitive, most ignored and most critical policy areas our state faces: behavioral health and veteran support centered compassionate care. And he was dogged. His example of persistence in both words and actions inspired generations of legislators to put the well-being of Oregonians first.

Peter's love for his neighbors and community extended beyond politics. It was evident to all who knew him. His unique blend of humor, compassion, and determination inspired those around him to strive for a better Oregon.

He certainly wasn't above some ribbing, never failing to remind me of the role he played in changing a legislative rule that allowed me to be married in the rotunda. I've never forgotten it either. While I didn't always follow it. I always valued his wise and honest counsel, which started when I was a legislative staffer and never stopped. It meant so much to me that Peter agreed to emcee my first swearing in as State Treasurer in 2017.

I thank this committee and the legislature for honoring the life of our dear friend, Peter Courtney, through SCR 10. May we all strive to emulate his commitment to public service and his love for Oregon, our Oregon.