



**President Peters Testimony on SCR 10  
Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Dr. Jesse Peters and I serve as the President of Western Oregon University. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of passage of SCR 10.

About eight months after I became president of Western Oregon University, Peter Courtney came to campus to meet with me. People had warned me that Peter could be “challenging” at times, so I didn’t quite know what to expect. He came in full of personality and conversation, and I could tell he had a great affinity for my Executive Assistant, LouAnn Vickers, whom he worked with for so many years. Shortly after we sat down, we started swapping stories about growing up; I told him about the farm in Georgia, and he spoke of West Virginia. He told me stories about working at Western and of Oregon politics. He told me about Boston, and he was impressed that I knew he was a Terrier from Boston University. My wife is from Boston and also attended BU, so I know a bit about that town. And we joked and laughed for well over an hour. By the time he left, I knew he had come there that day to check me out, to take stock of the person who was now running the university that he loved so dearly.

That was the last time I ever saw Peter in person. As he shook my hand and turned to make his way down the back steps, he said, “Your Honor, Western Oregon University is a special place. Don’t forget that, and don’t let anyone else forget it either!!” I told him I certainly would do my best. I remain impressed with the man, with his love of life, with his love of WOU, with his career, with his desire to come out and meet me that day. It is fitting that our student health and wellness center will always bear the name Peter Courtney.

From what I hear, people owe a lot to Peter Courtney. Even though my time with him was just a fleeting moment, I feel like I owe a lot to him too. So, Peter, you can count on us, by god, to keep on serving our students and the state of Oregon in the very best ways we can. Thanks for all you did.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony and I encourage you all to support SCR 10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Jesse Peters  
President  
Western Oregon University

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**Office of the President**