

John McArdle
675 Monmouth St.
Independence, Oregon 97351
mcardlejohn13@gmail.com

April 7, 2025

Re: HCR 8

Good morning Chair and Vice Chairs and members of the committee,

I am John McArdle, recently retired after 26 years as the Mayor of Independence, I also serve on the Monmouth/Independence YMCA Advisory board.

It's my honor today to speak to HCR 8 honoring the service of Vickie and Jerry Berger. Jerry Berger is known for his long service including being President of Chemeketa Community College, extending educational opportunities throughout the region. He was also part of the Oregon Community College Association supporting education across all of Oregon. Besides this important work he was involved in the leadership of the Marion/Polk YMCA, at one time serving as its president.

Vickie, business owner and also a former President of the Marion Polk YMCA, was one that supported our efforts to expand Y programs to the Independence and Monmouth communities.

I know Vickie best through my role as mayor, while she was our state representative. She made it a point to work WITH the people of Independence and Monmouth, asking questions, making phone calls, and listening to those on the ground providing the services to our residents.

A short story, the two cities of Independence and Monmouth needed high speed internet service, the incumbent telecoms were not interested in providing that service to us. So, the two cities created our own system, the Monmouth Independence Network (MINET). The out of state telecoms hated that we'd done this and took aggressive action against us, Vickie supported our communities in the legislature and helped us fight off those wanting to limit our service to residents. She did this even though it was hard, but she stood up for our communities. I am proud to say that her efforts along with so many others have created a high-speed system that is an example to others and is known for its outstanding customer service positive economic and educational impact. Thanks Vickie.

Finally, in all her interactions with the public, staff, and elected officials including town halls, she set a tone and held others, for or against, to act in a manner, that she advocated

as a YMCA leader...one of Respect, Civility, and Understanding. Let me tell you that kind of quiet leadership makes a difference.

Together, Vickie and Jerry are examples, role models, not just for what they've done, but for how they did it. Our region, and all of Oregon are better for their efforts.

I urge your support for HCR 8,

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McArdle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John McArdle