

**President Jesse Peters**

Western Oregon University  
345 Monmouth Ave N  
Monmouth, OR 97361

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham and Members of the House Rules Committee,

On behalf of Western Oregon University, I write in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, which recognizes and honors John McArdle for his outstanding leadership and public service to the City of Independence and the State of Oregon.

John McArdle's decades of civic leadership—most notably as Mayor of Independence—have had a lasting and transformative impact on our region. His commitment to revitalizing downtown Independence, supporting local businesses, and fostering inclusive community development has helped make the city a vibrant, welcoming place for residents, visitors, and students alike.

At Western Oregon University, we have felt firsthand the positive influence of Mr. McArdle's leadership. Not only through his longstanding support for public higher education, regional partnerships, and the well-being of students has strengthened our university's ability to serve as a catalyst for opportunity and innovation in rural Polk County, but because Mr. McArdle worked at the Western Oregon University Foundation from 1990 to 2006, directly helping raise needed funds for strategic projects that helped WOU further achieve its institutional mission. John has been a true champion for collaboration between municipal and educational institutions, and his vision has helped foster a more profound sense of connection between our university and the broader community.

We thank the Legislature for taking the time to honor such a remarkable individual whose legacy of service will continue to benefit Oregonians for years. We respectfully urge your support of SCR 18 to recognize John McArdle's enduring contributions to our state.

Sincerely,

Jesse Peters, Ph.D.  
President  
Western Oregon University