74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee on Rules

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Avakian, Ferrioli, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Brown

Nays: 0 Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Congratulates Pigmice for winning 2007 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League First Place Champion's Award at FIRST LEGO League World Festival.

MEASURE:

CARRIER:

SCR 18 A

Sen. Brown

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of teamwork and incredible coaches to achieve success
- Number of teams participating in FLL and where they're from
- Number of girls participating in this engineering program
- Origin of team name and history of team membership

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Makes technical changes to the resolution.

BACKGROUND: FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is an international pre-engineering program for 9-14 year olds designed to excite kids about science and technology and have fun. Each team of 4-10 kids designs robots built out of LEGOs and programs them to do specific assigned tasks. Additionally, teams must conduct and present a research project. Each year, in mid-September, a new challenge based on real-world issues is released and the teams have 3 months to prepare for their local competition. The top 20 percent of these teams then go onto a state or national competition. The champions of that event are invited to the FLL World Festival.

Oregon's FIRST LEGO League Team #1031, "The Pigmice," won the 1st Place Champion's Award at the FIRST LEGO League World Festival in Atlanta, Georgia on April 13th. Approximately 90,000 students in 49 countries participated in FLL this year. Of those, 94 teams from 22 countries advanced to the World Festival in Atlanta. The Pigmice were judged to be the team that achieved the highest level across all categories and demonstrated outstanding gracious professionalism.

The team chose the name "The Pigmice" in 2003, referring to a game that one of the members had made up. Over the years, Pigmice have come to be defined as: "genetically enhanced sewer rats that dwell in the garbage disposal."