



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

1158 Chemeketa Street NE

Salem, OR 97301-2528

February 3, 2012

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder
Oregon State Senator
900 Court St NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

MEASURE: SCR 207
EXHIBIT: 1
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-7-12 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: Matthew Garrett

Dear Senator Dingfelder,

The Oregon Transportation Commission and the Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation express our sincere thanks for your introduction of Senate Concurrent Resolution 207 honoring the life and achievements of Gail L. Achterman.

In her professional and public life, Gail Achterman added so much to the lives of Oregonians, and particularly to those of us who had the great honor and privilege of working with her in the transportation sector for more than a decade. She was a truly remarkable visionary, and a woman of unrivaled principles and credibility. We all consider ourselves beyond fortunate to have witnessed her work and to have supported her in the direction she set in the transportation world.

Gail was a friend, a colleague, and always a leader during her public life. She contributed so much in her many public roles, but perhaps some of her greatest contributions came during her tenure as Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, from 2007 to 2011.

The list of her contributions is exhaustive, but we must recognize her passion for developing a fully integrated, multimodal transportation system to serve all Oregonians. Her role as a leader in the passage of the Jobs and Transportation Act (2009), and in the delivery of the Oregon Transportation Investment Acts, *ConnectOregon* programs, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects must receive acknowledgement. Her focus on the environmental stewardship obligations of transportation, and her insistence on integrating land use, economic development and transportation planning have left Oregon communities more robust and healthy. Truly, it is hard to identify a greater champion for these issues, and such an accomplished one at that.

We should also recognize that in addition to improving the world in which we live and the quality of life in our great state, Gail was a wonderful person who cared deeply about others. While we will miss her intellect and vision, we will miss her personality and friendship just as much. Both are important components of her legacy.

Again, we thank you and join you in recognition of the many contributions of our friend and colleague, Gail L. Achterman.

Sincerely,



Pat Egan, Chair



David Lohman, Member



Mary Olson, Member



Mark Frohnmayer, Member



Tammy Baney, Member



Matthew L. Garrett, Director

cc: Governor Kitzhaber
Alan Brown
Steve Corey
Stuart Foster
Mike Nelson
John Russell
Janice Wilson