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SUBMITTED BY: KERRY TYMCHUCK

**KERRY TYMCHUK
TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES
FEBRUARY 3, 2012**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Kerry Tymchuk, and it is my privilege to serve as Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society.

On behalf of the Oregon Historical Society, I am here this afternoon to express our support for the three resolutions before you.

Historian David McCullough once wrote, "History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

There can be no doubt that Mark Hatfield, Betty Roberts, and all those who fought for the cause of women's suffrage helped to define who and why we Oregonians are the way we are.

I believe that when Oregon historians write about the last half of the twentieth century, they will refer to it as the "age of Hatfield." For 46 uninterrupted years of public service--four as State Representative, two as State Senator, two as Secretary of State, eight as Governor, and thirty as United States Senator--Mark Hatfield never lost an election and he never lost the trust and respect of his fellow Oregonians.

You can see his impact in Oregon's material resources--the highways, hospitals, and institutions that received federal funds because of him.

You can see his impact in Oregon's natural resources--in the Columbia Gorge and the many Oregon treasures he safeguarded.

You can see his impact in Oregon's human resources--in the hundreds upon hundreds of Oregonians who were Hatfield interns or staffers, who, inspired by his example, returned to Oregon and serve their communities and our state.

And, perhaps above all, you can see Senator Hatfield's impact in our inner resources--in the example he set for honesty, integrity, compassion, courage, and bi-partisanship.

Just as Senator Hatfield is worth honoring for his impact on Oregon's history, so, too, is Betty Roberts. The history of Oregon is the history of path breakers, and from her service in this building to her status as the first woman to serve on both the Oregon Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court, few Oregonians blazed more trails with as much grace and grit--the title of her autobiography-- than Betty Roberts.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Oregon Historical Society is proud to join with many organizations around the state, including Century of Action, in commemorating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Oregon. It also took a great deal of grace and grit and perseverance for suffrage supporters to endure six elections before there were enough enlightened men to extend the right to vote to Oregon women.

Perhaps it is fitting, Mr. Chairman, that in this historic first annual session, that one of the first actions of this legislature be the adoption of resolutions honoring two historic individuals and one historic cause that will long continue to help define who we are and why we are the way we are. The Oregon Historical Society is proud to support Senate Concurrent Resolutions 202, 204, and 205.