



SENATOR CHUCK THOMSEN

I chose to chief sponsor SCR 16 as soon as I learned about the great partnership that has been formed between the Port of Portland and USO Northwest. For the first time since the United Service Organization was created in 1941, there will now be a full-time USO center at the Portland Airport.

These USO centers are not too well-known to civilians, but everyone who serves or has ever served in our armed forces knows exactly what they are. The USO center at PDX will provide active troops with resources that show how grateful we are for their service by making their travel easier.

It's important to me in this testimony to say how proud I am of the Port of Portland for generously donating space to USO Northwest. It's not something they had to do, but they wanted to do it. Now, traveling soldiers will arrive at PDX and be greeted each time with open arms.

This is completely privately-funded, and USO Northwest has asked nothing for us as a legislature to do for them. But we owe them the passage of SCR 16 to show our gratitude for their hard work and great partnership with the Port of Portland for setting up shop in Oregon for the first time.

Thank you,

Sen. Chuck Thomsen