

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Chris Garrett, Chair
and committee members
House Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature

In support of HR 1 honoring Wheeler County Judge Jeanne Burch

Dear Chair Garrett and Committee Members:

I have known Jeanne Burch since her appointment as Wheeler County Judge in 1993.

During her tenure, Judge Burch steadily guided Wheeler County from the brink of dissolution to a status of relative stability. This was a remarkable accomplishment given the county's paucity of resources, including population, and its geographic isolation. Judge Burch earned the public's trust through fiscally responsible leadership, hard work, good sense and good humor.

As county judge under the original Oregon constitutional model, Jeanne Burch served as chair of the county court/board of commissioners, county administrator and presided over probate and juvenile court matters. She also provided leadership to regional boards for economic development, community corrections, 911 emergency services, area commission on transportation, mental health, public health and the council of governments.

While I was Sherman County Judge, I collaborated with Judge Burch and Gilliam County Judge Laura Pryor to achieve a number of innovative projects involving regional cooperation.

Judge Burch was also dedicated to statewide activities and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). She served with distinction on AOC's Board of Directors, Legislative Committee and as chair of its Communications Policy Steering Committee. She was very influential in developing and forwarding state policy around telecommunications.

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties and myself, I enthusiastically support House Resolution 1 and urge its speedy passage.

Sincerely,



Mike W. McArthur
Executive Director