

Enrolled House Resolution 1

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH, HUFFMAN; Representative MCLANE

Whereas Jeanne Burch was appointed as Wheeler County judge in 1994; and

Whereas Judge Burch has served as not only the county judge but also as probate and juvenile court judge, county administrator and chair of the county court; and

Whereas at the time of Judge Burch's appointment, Wheeler County was close to bankruptcy following the decline of the region's timber industry; and

Whereas Judge Burch toured the county to explain to residents the dire financial situation and persuade them to vote to raise taxes and bring Wheeler County back to solvency; and

Whereas the historic Wheeler County Courthouse had been falling into disrepair, and Judge Burch was able to secure funding for renovation; and

Whereas Judge Burch was a founding board member of Frontier TeleNet, helping to implement communications services and rural broadband in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler Counties and facilitating public education, health and safety communications; and

Whereas Judge Burch led efforts to bring cellular telephone coverage to the City of Fossil and the northern portion of Wheeler County-efforts that were rewarded with the construction of the area's first cell tower; and

Whereas Judge Burch secured funding from Sustainable Oregon for the Oregon Paleo Project and the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Field Center; and

Whereas Judge Burch was instrumental in securing a grant from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the construction of a new family services center in Wheeler County; and

Whereas Judge Burch serves as vice chair of the Commission for Women; and

Whereas Judge Burch played a key role in recent efforts to promote better health and wellness for all Wheeler County residents by setting up a community gym; and

Whereas Judge Burch has helped boost local tourism with such efforts as the creation of a bluegrass festival that draws hundreds of visitors every summer; and

Whereas Judge Burch has brought a wealth of worldly experience, wisdom and dedication to her position and leaves a lasting legacy of positive change in Wheeler County; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, honor Judge Jeanne Burch for her exemplary leadership and service to the community and wish her the best as she enters retirement.

Adopted by House March 4, 2013

Ramona J. Line, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House