

Chair Hoyle, Members of the committee:

My name is Jennifer Williamson, state representative for House District 36, Portland's Westside.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to come before you today and honor a man whose incredible contributions will continue to be felt across Oregon, and particularly in the district I represent, for years to come.

Executive director of the Oregon Historical Society for 35 years, Thomas Vaughan's leadership led to the exponential expansion of the organization's breadth and profile. When Tom became executive director in 1954 the historical society operated on a \$50,000 a year budget and had only 5 employees. When he retired in 1989, that had grown to a \$4.5 million budget and a hundred employees. Tom's dedicated advocacy on behalf of preserving Oregon's architectural heritage was also critical to

ensuring that our state's historical landmarks remain for us to appreciate today. In House District 36 particularly, it was thanks to Tom's tremendous effort that the 139 year old Pioneer Courthouse received the federal authorization necessary for its restoration.

My own personal memories of Tom include his reliable attendance at my meetings at Terwilliger Plaza. Generally a tough and well-informed crowd, Tom stood out by asking in-depth, thought provoking questions which always kept me on my toes.

I hope you are able to take a moment to review the copy of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, the publication of the Oregon Historical Society which Tom was editor for many years, provided to you. This is just a small piece of an incredible legacy which was recently well summarized by the current editor of the Quarterly, Eliza Canty-Jones:

“Oregonians are better able to know themselves now and in the future because of the work Tom did to grow the Oregon Historical Society, and we should all be thankful for it.”

Thank you for hearing this memory of Tom Vaughan.