



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee

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*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SUPPORTING SB 5
FEBRUARY 11, 2015*

Chair Lee Beyer, Vice Chair Fred Girod, members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem.

I've come before you today to support Senate Bill 5. The measure would name a portion of State Highway 126 the "William Tebeau Memorial Highway."

William "Bill" Tebeau is a true Oregonian. He was raised in Baker City, Oregon. He was "An engineer and a pioneer." He was an Eagle Scout. He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a great grandfather. Mr. Tebeau made Oregon a better place. He and his family deserve this honor.

Mr. Tebeau was the first African-American man to attend Oregon State College. Graduating in 1948, he overcame prejudice none of us could imagine today.

As an African American at Oregon State College, he was denied housing, and had to work tending a fraternity house furnace in exchange for a basement room. He was not one to complain. He worked hard. He overcame injustice, and he graduated with an engineering degree.

Mr. Tebeau spent his career in public service. He worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation for 36 years. He pioneered the

department's first hydraulic design unit. He contributed to many of the highways and bridges we use today.

He taught engineering for 30 years at Chemeketa Community College. He was named Teacher of the Year in 1970.

William Tebeau has been honored by his peers, his colleges, and his community. Books have been written about him. He is in the Engineering Hall of Fame at Oregon State University.

Despite being denied housing at Oregon State College in the 40s- Oregon State University named a residence hall after him in 2014.

Now it is time for this Legislature to recognize him. With this naming, we will be showing our respect, and our appreciation for the many things Mr. Tebeau gave to Oregon.

Thank you, Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Business and Transportation Committee for hearing my testimony today.