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From the Desk of  
Senator Thatcher

March 16, 2015

Members of the Oregon Senate,

We appreciate your consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, introduced by Senators Thatcher and Boquist, honoring the life and extraordinary contributions of Joan Austin.

Joan, together with her husband Ken, was a great friend to Oregon State University through her generosity of spirit, her extensive legacy of volunteer leadership, and her significant gifts to the university. These are, of course, in addition to the countless ways she served her community and the State of Oregon.

OSU's campus bears many signs of Joan's generous heart. Last fall we opened Austin Hall, the new home for our College of Business, and celebrated the occasion with Ken and family. The unique Austin Entrepreneurship Program continues the Austins' mission to instill excellence and preparedness in the next generation of business leaders. Joan and Ken's giving continues to touch many other areas at OSU as well, and its breadth speaks to the significant impact they have had on our university.

Joan's legacy on campus goes well beyond the physical landscape and student experiences she enabled. Her service as a volunteer leader at OSU and the OSU Foundation is unmatched in recent memory. Joan served for decades on advisory boards in our colleges of Engineering and Business, as well as the 4-H Foundation Board. Most significantly, perhaps, was her service on the OSU Foundation's Board of Trustees for nearly three decades, garnering her the titles of Lifetime Trustee and Honorary Alumnus. Joan was the first female chair of the OSU Foundation board.

All of these accolades are eclipsed by Joan's tremendous generosity of spirit, which was evident in her every interaction with students, fellow board members and campus partners. Her passion for higher education and for students was complemented by the pride she and Ken took in helping others. Her legacy on our campus, much like her legacy across our state, was built on tremendous generosity and remains one of warmth, caring and compassion.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this most fitting resolution honoring Joan.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Ray  
President  
Oregon State University

J. Michael Goodwin  
President and CEO  
OSU Foundation