



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Rules

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TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 326
FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Chair Burdick, members of the Senate Committee on Rules, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 326.

Cherry trees seem to be a popular foliage for Capitols in this Country. Maybe as a nation we are trying to make up for the tree George Washington chopped down all those years ago.

Whatever the reason, cherry trees can be found from Salt Lake City, Utah to Washington D.C. But as the nurserymen of 1907 declared, Salem Oregon has the “greatest and finest display of cherries known in history.”

I don't want to brag, but it is important that we distinguish ourselves from Washington DC. Not only are our cherries finer, but our Capitol is more open and welcoming.

In 2008 the State Capitol building and surrounding grounds became the State Capitol State Park. Ensuring that it will always remain a place that belongs to and is open to the people.

This Capitol building is in my district. This building means a lot to me, and the surrounding park is just as meaningful.

Oregonians are always encouraged to come visit their Capitol. But if I had to pick the best time, it would be when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

Establishing Cherry Blossom Day will encourage people across the State to come visit their Capitol. To come enjoy the trees and the flowers, and to maybe learn a bit about Oregon government and the People's Building while they're here.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I hope you'll join me in supporting this bill.