

Senate Rules Committee
Chair Senator Ginny Burdick
900 Court St, NE S-223
Salem, OR. 97301

RE: Dr. Joe Robertson

Dear Chair Burdick, and Members of the Committee,

I first met Dr. Robertson in 2006 when I was serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, which is an umbrella organization for approximately 20,000 union construction workers. Shortly after he took office as President of OHSU he invited me to share lunch with him in his office. I was very pleased to accept the invitation, I knew that OHSU and the Building Trades had a long standing respectful and mutually beneficial relationship, and I wanted to see that continue.

I had never met Dr. Robertson before, he went out of his way to make me feel welcome. I was very impressed with his knowledge, his inclusiveness, and his humility. We talked about what a wonderful institution OHSU was, and how we and the rest of the members of our teams could work together to grow OHSU, and make it better.

We talked about the training that OHSU provides for its students, and how OHSU graduates make our communities and state better places to live. We also talked about the students in Building Trades apprenticeship programs, how they are trained to build complex facilities such as OHSU requires, and how these apprentices and journey men and women make our communities and state better places to live. It was clear he had respect for both sets of students, which was so very meaningful to me.

He made it clear that his door was always open, and we and our organizations collaborated many times over the years. A few years ago I had the good fortune to be part of the Unite for the Knight Coalition, which was a joint labor/management effort to raise matching funds for the Knight Cancer Center that was supported by Dr. Robertson. That effort raised a relatively small amount of the overall matching funds that were raised. But I sure think a positive message was sent- that labor and management can come together and work together for projects that benefit our communities.

The cranes that are currently in the air, and hundreds of union construction workers at work, are chapter one of this great success story that Dr. Robertson championed. This, and many other efforts that he led will benefit our state and communities for many years to come.

It has been my honor and pleasure to know Dr. Robertson, and be able to work with him over the years. I send my best wishes to him for a long, healthy, and happy retirement with his family and loved ones.

Respectfully,

John Mohlis
Columbia Pacific and Oregon State Building Trades Councils, Retired