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Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: LC3426 2019 Regular Session
Senate Concurrent Resolution 24
Lewis Linn McArthur (1917-2018) in memoriam

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to offer this word of support for the Senate Concurrent Resolution that pays tribute to Lewis L. McArthur, a distinguished Oregonian whose command of the state's history, geography, and associated subjects and his long-term service as a citizen advisor to the State in several capacities combine as an outstanding legacy.

Mr. McArthur's dedication to updating, through four editions, the great lexicon of Oregon place names originated by his father, Lewis A. "Tam" McArthur, and his leadership of the Oregon Geographic Names Board over many years are widely recognized.

Mr. McArthur's contributions to the state and federal partnership for implementing provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 are significant also and worthy of highlighting. In 1970, Governor Tom McCall appointed Lewis L. McArthur as one of the founding members of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. His breadth of knowledge concerning Oregon's Euro-American resettlement and subsequent development led to consecutive reappointments adding up to eleven years and eight months of uninterrupted service. It was the committee's charge to review and approve the Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan and its periodic updates and, also, to evaluate nominations of Oregon properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places that potentially could qualify for federal matching grant assistance for rehabilitation. During his tenure, many of the state's most treasured historical sites and landmarks were registered and restored or renovated. Mr. McArthur's designated area of expertise on the advisory committee was industrial history.



Three of the first appointees to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation were sworn in at the Capitol on January 4, 1971. Left to right: Rod Porter, State Highway Engineer and Liaison Officer for the program; Thomas Vaughan, Director, Oregon Historical Society, Lewis L. MacArthur, industrial historian, Wallace Kay Huntington, landscape architect, Governor McCall, and Ron Schmidt, Assistant to the Governor. Oregon State Highway Department photo.

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His was an early voice that helped focus attention on Oregon's transportation features such as bridges, railroad stations, and navigation locks; also woolen textile mills, flouring mills, lumber manufactories, and blacksmith shops, for example. His encouragement helped pave the way for productive adaptive reuse of distinctive warehouses as an important, often overlooked, classification of historic industrial property. He was selected as the State Advisory Committee's second chairman, following Thomas Vaughan, and served in that capacity a little over three years in the 1970s.

A notable example of the accolades bestowed on Mr. McArthur in recognition of his long record of voluntary service to the State was the "distinguished preservationist of the year" award conferred in 1988 by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (today known as Restore Oregon). The honor celebrated his rank as a respected, knowledgeable, dedicated citizen advisor and it acknowledged the importance of his advocacy for the preservation of the state's historic industrial and engineering resources. From 1987 to 1997, Mr. McArthur chaired the Historic Columbia River Highway Citizen Advisory Committee formed under Legislative mandate to advise the Department of Transportation and State Parks organization on policy for maintaining the original, scenic route of the Columbia River Highway. He also served as vice chair of the Historic and Scenic Highways Advisory Committee and as an advisory team member for the Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon Study and Covered Bridges Study.

To conclude this testimony to the fittingness of the memorial, it is pleasing to think of Mr. McArthur's swearing-in as a member of the original State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in the Governor's ceremonial office in 1971. He must have been reminded in the course of that formality, and on subsequent trips to Salem, of the role that his father, a director of the Oregon Historical Society, had played as voluntary expert advisor to the Capitol Reconstruction Commission's committee chair on decorative work in 1937, when the new capitol building was under construction. "Tam" McArthur's daily journal jottings show that commissioner Robert W. Sawyer, editor and publisher of the *Bend Bulletin*, conferred closely with his friend and Oregon Historical Society colleague while in the process of deciding which pivotal historical events should be portrayed in the murals to be installed in the rotunda and behind rostrums in the House and Senate chambers in accordance with the architects' design.

With good wishes,



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

cc: Mary McArthur