

## HCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Recognizes and honors Gary Neal for his remarkable and successful career.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Gary Neal dedicated 29 years to the revitalization and growth of the Port of Morrow. After a remarkable career, he retired in November of 2018.

Gary Neal grew up in Clarkston, Washington. After attending Washington State University he worked at the Port of Clarkston for 8 years, first as a commissioner and then a manager. Gary's exemplary and innovative work at the Port of Clarkston attracted the attention of the Port of Morrow during their search for a new general manager. Gary and Kathy Neal brought their family to Boardman, Oregon and quickly made it their home through their tireless civic engagement and volunteer activities.

When he visited the Port of Morrow in 1989, the local economy was in rough shape with high unemployment and the landscape was a mostly undeveloped space of sagebrush and desert. Through the vision and leadership of Gary Neal, that sagebrush and desert became one of the most productive areas in the State of Oregon with an estimated \$2.8 billion in annual output in 2017. Under his stewardship, the Port of Morrow has become Oregon's second largest port and attracted diverse companies of all types and sizes and created 8,452 permanent family wage jobs. The revitalization of the Port of Morrow has had a profound effect on the regional economy of Morrow and Umatilla Counties and all of eastern Oregon, where secondary benefits of direct, port-related business and construction spending generated more than \$800 million in annual sales.

Gary is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 45 years, Kathy, his children Rochelle and Ryan, and his four grandchildren: Tai, Trey, Ava, and Ari. While he also looks forward to playing more golf and traveling, he will stay true to his nature and serve on several local boards and continue to work to make his community a better place.

House Concurrent Resolution 18 recognizes and honors Gary Neal for his service to the Port of Morrow and the State of Oregon.