



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

March 8, 2019

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

Dear Committee Members:

With this letter I enthusiastically endorse SCR 23 and 24 that recognizes the contributions of Tom McAllister and Lew McArthur. As a member of the Oregon Geographic Names Board I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the contributions and service of these two Oregon-born citizens of our state.

As a University of Oregon geographer, I especially appreciated Tom McAllister's deep understanding of our state's physical and cultural geography as a naturalist, a journalist, and as a non-stop volunteer serving Oregon. During his long tenure on the Oregon Geographic Names Board Tom brought his extensive knowledge of all corners of the state and its diversity of perspectives to enriching the discussions and the decisions of the Board.

I first met Lewis McArthur in 1988 through *Atlas of Oregon* director Bill Loy. Bill and Lew were working on the pioneering effort of creating one of the first comprehensive Geographic Names Information Systems (GNIS) in the country in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey. The McArthur family edited book, *Oregon Geographic Names*, had already established Oregon as the leader in geographic names scholarship and with Lew's unending enthusiasm and vision for the future, he worked tirelessly leading the charge in the development of a computerized geographic names database. Lew's commitment to the GNIS and his continued work on editing the definite reference book, *Oregon Geographic Names*, has kept Oregon at the forefront in this critical cultural data science field. The nationwide GNIS database is now the authoritative source for place names in the United States and a critical resource supporting the mapping of our State.

Again, I strongly support these resolutions that recognize the contributions of two committed and outstanding citizens of Oregon.

Respectfully,

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