

House Concurrent Resolution 18

Sponsored by Representative SMITH G

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors Gary Neal for his service to Port of Morrow and State of Oregon.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Gary Neal grew up in Clarkston, Washington, and attended Washington State Univer-
3 sity; and

4 Whereas from 1981 to 1989, Gary Neal worked at the Port of Clarkston, first as a commissioner
5 and then as manager; and

6 Whereas in 1989, the Port of Morrow was searching for a new general manager and Gary Neal's
7 exemplary and innovative work at the Port of Clarkston attracted their attention; and

8 Whereas when Gary Neal visited the Port of Morrow in 1989, the local economy was in rough
9 shape with high unemployment and the landscape was a mostly undeveloped space of sagebrush and
10 desert, but the port had vast potential in terms of its location, natural resources, utilities and
11 transportation infrastructure; and

12 Whereas not only did Gary Neal accept the job offer, but his vision and leadership helped to
13 turn that sagebrush and desert into one of the most productive areas in the State of Oregon; and

14 Whereas under Gary Neal's stewardship, the Port of Morrow has become Oregon's second larg-
15 est port and has attracted diverse companies of all types and sizes and created 8,452 permanent
16 family wage jobs; and

17 Whereas the Port of Morrow is one of the state's top economic success stories, with port-related
18 businesses accounting for an estimated \$2.8 billion in annual output in 2017; and

19 Whereas the Port of Morrow's revitalization and growth have had a profound effect on the re-
20 gional economy of Morrow and Umatilla Counties and all of eastern Oregon, and secondary benefits
21 of direct, port-related business and construction spending generate more than \$800 million in annual
22 sales per year in Morrow and Umatilla Counties; and

23 Whereas when Gary and Kathy Neal brought their family in 1989 to Boardman, Oregon, they
24 came not just for a job but to make it their home, and they have been an enormous asset to the
25 community with their tireless civic engagement and volunteer activities; and

26 Whereas the Neal Early Learning Center is named in honor of Gary and Kathy Neal, and it
27 reflects their ongoing commitment to serving the youth of Morrow County, especially through the
28 vehicle of early education; and

29 Whereas another project that gives Gary Neal a great sense of personal accomplishment is the
30 Port of Morrow's SAGE Center, which is an interactive facility that highlights sustainable agricul-
31 ture and energy and gives visitors a unique opportunity to understand the region by learning about
32 local industries and technology; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas Gary Neal’s wide-ranging talents, accomplishments and intellect have earned him uni-
2 versal respect from industry leaders and public officials alike, in areas as diverse as finance,
3 infrastructure, education and workforce development; and

4 Whereas Gary Neal has provided his expertise and leadership in many other key roles with
5 private and public entities over the years, including the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Windwave, the
6 Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, the Oregon Public Ports Association and the Oregon
7 Infrastructure Finance Authority Board; and

8 Whereas Gary and Kathy Neal have been married for 45 years and are the proud parents of
9 Rochelle and Ryan and have four grandchildren: Tai, Trey, Ava and Ari; and

10 Whereas Gary Neal retired from the Port of Morrow in November 2018; and

11 Whereas Gary Neal will be a tough act to follow, but the Port of Morrow is in the capable
12 hands of his son Ryan, who has succeeded his father as the port’s executive director; and

13 Whereas Gary Neal is looking forward to spending time with his family, playing more golf and
14 traveling, but, true to his nature, will also serve on several local boards and continue working to
15 make his community a better place; now, therefore,

16 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

17 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Gary Neal for
18 his remarkable and successful career, and we express our gratitude for his contributions to the Port
19 of Morrow and the State of Oregon; and be it further

20 Resolved, That we wish Gary Neal well in his retirement.

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