

HCR 202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Commemorates the 100th anniversary of the town of Rhododendron.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1846, Sam Barlow established the Barlow Road along what is now U.S. Route 26 as an overland alternative to the treacherous Columbia River portion of the Oregon Trail. Weary travelers along the Barlow Road once stopped at a wide spot in the road at the western foot of Mount Hood to gather strength for the last stretch of their trip to the Willamette Valley.

In 1905, former Portland Mayor Henry S. Rowe directed the construction of an inn on his parcel of land at that wide spot in the road, naming it the Rhododendron Inn due to the large number of rhododendrons growing in the area. The community of Rhododendron developed around the inn as a summer resort colony for travelers wishing to enjoy the mountain and forest scenery, as well as to ski and engage in other recreational activities.

On January 26, 1920, a United States post office, which is still in operation today, was dedicated for the area, formally naming it Rhododendron, Oregon. The vibrant and idyllic unincorporated town of Rhododendron is home to nearly 2,000 Oregonians and remains an important part of the mountain communities of Clackamas County.

House Concurrent Resolution 202 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the town of Rhododendron.