

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 204

Sponsored by Senator COURTNEY; Senators KNOPP, ROBLAN

## 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**.

Congratulates Rogue Creamery for winning top prize at World Cheese Awards.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas on October 22, 2019, Rogue Creamery achieved the remarkable feat of winning top  
3 prize at the World Cheese Awards for its Rogue River Blue; and

4       Whereas it was the first time a cheese from the United States had won the top prize in a com-  
5 petition typically dominated by European cheeses; and

6       Whereas Rogue River Blue beat out a field of 3,804 cheeses from 42 countries, and it was the  
7 only American cheese to qualify for the final 16; and

8       Whereas Rogue Creamery was founded in the 1930s in Oregon's lush and beautiful Rogue River  
9 Valley by Tom Vella, an Italian immigrant; and

10       Whereas the creamery began producing blue cheeses in 1954, after Vella toured and studied all  
11 aspects of cheesemaking in the famed Roquefort region of France; and

12       Whereas Vella designed and built a state-of-the-art facility in Central Point, Oregon, which in-  
13 cluded a cave-aging process like those used in France; and

14       Whereas Rogue Creamery produced the first blue cheeses aged in caves in the United States  
15 west of the Missouri River; and

16       Whereas in the following decades, Rogue Creamery achieved national and international acclaim  
17 for its artisan blue cheeses; and

18       Whereas the current president of Rogue Creamery, David Gremmels, whose nickname is "Mr.  
19 Blue," has continued the fine traditions passed down by the Vella family and furthered the success  
20 and reputation of the creamery; and

21       Whereas Rogue Creamery has won more than 30 major medals and awards over the years, in-  
22 cluding a 2009 Best of Show award from the American Cheese Society and a prize for best blue  
23 cheese at the 2003 World Cheese Awards; and

24       Whereas Rogue River Blue is a seasonal and organic cheese made from raw cow's milk and in-  
25 cludes a natural rind; and

26       Whereas each wheel of Rogue River Blue is hand-wrapped in Syrah grape leaves that are picked  
27 each spring from a nearby vineyard and soaked in pear spirits, before the wheel is aged in caves for  
28 nearly a year; and

29       Whereas Gremmels has said that the creamery's goal with Rogue River Blue is "to create a real  
30 American original" that "captures the essence of southern Oregon, in its flavor, presentation and  
31 aromatics"; and

32       Whereas Rogue Creamery has long been an important provider of family-wage jobs, and it con-

**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 continues to be a vital part of southern Oregon's vibrant economy; and

2       Whereas Rogue Creamery has made the entire State of Oregon proud with the historic success  
3 it has achieved for the world-class cheeses it creates using the bounty of Oregon products and the  
4 hard work and craftsmanship of Oregonians; now, therefore,

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

6       That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, congratulate Rogue Creamery for  
7 its extraordinary achievement in winning top prize at the World Cheese Awards for its Rogue River  
8 Blue; and be it further

9       Resolved, That we commend Rogue Creamery for its distinctive and important place in the his-  
10 tory, culture and economy of southern Oregon, and we extend our best wishes for its continued  
11 success.

12

---