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. Whereas on October 22, 2019, Rogue Creamery achieved the remarkable feat of winning top prize at the World Cheese Awards for its Rogue River Blue; and
2. Whereas it was the first time a cheese from the United States had won the top prize in a competition typically dominated by European cheeses; and
3. Whereas Rogue River Blue beat out a field of 3,804 cheeses from 42 countries, and it was the only American cheese to qualify for the final 16; and
4. Whereas Rogue Creamery was founded in the 1930s in Oregon’s lush and beautiful Rogue River Valley by Tom Vella, an Italian immigrant; and
5. Whereas the creamery began producing blue cheeses in 1954, after Vella toured and studied all aspects of cheesemaking in the famed Roquefort region of France; and
6. Whereas Vella designed and built a state-of-the-art facility in Central Point, Oregon, which included a cave-aging process like those used in France; and
7. Whereas Rogue Creamery produced the first blue cheeses aged in caves in the United States west of the Missouri River; and
8. Whereas in the following decades, Rogue Creamery achieved national and international acclaim for its artisan blue cheeses; and
9. Whereas the current president of Rogue Creamery, David Gremmels, whose nickname is “Mr. Blue,” has continued the fine traditions passed down by the Vella family and furthered the success and reputation of the creamery; and
10. Whereas Rogue Creamery has won more than 30 major medals and awards over the years, including a 2009 Best of Show award from the American Cheese Society and a prize for best blue cheese at the 2003 World Cheese Awards; and
11. Whereas Rogue River Blue is a seasonal and organic cheese made from raw cow’s milk and includes a natural rind; and
12. Whereas each wheel of Rogue River Blue is hand-wrapped in Syrah grape leaves that are picked each spring from a nearby vineyard and soaked in pear spirits, before the wheel is aged in caves for nearly a year; and
13. Whereas Gremmels has said that the creamery’s goal with Rogue River Blue is “to create a real American original” that “captures the essence of southern Oregon, in its flavor, presentation and aromatics”; and
14. Whereas Rogue Creamery has long been an important provider of family-wage jobs, and it con-
continues to be a vital part of southern Oregon’s vibrant economy; and

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

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

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

Resolved, That we commend Rogue Creamery for its distinctive and important place in the history, culture and economy of southern Oregon, and we extend our best wishes for its continued success.