

I'm writing in support of House Bill 2329 - I believe it is so important that state cultural symbols are reflective of all communities in Oregon, not just those that have historically held political power or had access to the biggest microphones in telling the story of the state. With House Bill 2329 we have the opportunity to ensure an inclusive and equitable process for creating a successor state song that affirms and reflects the diverse history and culture of Oregon while also helping to repair the harm of having a cultural symbol that does not acknowledge or reflect the true history and the value of all people in the state. A public participation process, versus selecting and updating the song without public participation, helps to ensure that the same process that may have resulted in a song that did not truly reflect the spirit of the state is not repeated. Instead HB 2329 will support a much more inclusive process that I believe will result in a stronger and more equitable cultural symbol for our state. As an Oregonian and as a parent, I want my child to grow up in a place that is willing to revisit and work to repair harm done in our past, and where our cultural symbols reflect and include the voices and perspectives of all people who call Oregon home. Thank you.