

I am writing in support of HB 2329 and creating a more inclusive and equitable process for choosing a new Oregon State Song. Music is so important as a means of communication and a state song, or an anthem, by its very definition is a song of praise and connection which gathers people together and inspires a sense of pride. The current song of Oregon is not something to be proud of, with its references to martyrdom, conquering and the references to manifest destiny that caused so much suffering. I do not believe that whitewashing the song with changes in lyrics is enough to make a clear break with this old and hegemonic paradigm. We are surrounded by the stories and the wisdom of so many Oregonians, people with skills and talents, wisdom and perspective that we can leverage through a song contest to give voice to the Oregon of today and tomorrow. Please pass the HB 2329 to create an anthem that all Oregonians can gather together in community connection and pride. Thank you.