

To whom it may concern,

As a musician and songwriter, a person of conscience, and an Oregon resident since 2005, I applaud the Legislature's commitment to rewrite or replace the racist lyrics of Oregon's state song, "Oregon, My Oregon". I have reviewed the lyrics presented in OR 2021 House Concurrent Resolution 11, as well as the text of House Bill 2329.

Amy Donna Shapiro's lyrics are acceptable and inoffensive in celebrating our state's natural beauty. However, I believe that adopting this modification would be missing an opportunity to do much better. Like many white Americans, I have come recognize my own unconscious complicity in the violent and racist history of land theft, genocide, slavery and more. I believe passionately that we must work harder to make amends. A state song is a purely symbolic gesture, but it is an opportunity to embrace, honor and celebrate our state's diversity as well as acknowledge the past ills that need to be healed.

I request that the legislature refrain from adopting HCR 11 and return to the inclusive community process mandate by HB 2329.

Thank you,  
Rachel Freifelder  
Portland, OR