

March 17, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Testimony on SCR 16 (Marty Myers)

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment:

I write today to recognize the loss of a friend and colleague – Marty Myers, and to support your consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 honoring Marty and his contributions to Oregon.

When I think about Marty I remember a person who was an innovator, a connector, a bridge-builder. Over the past 15 years, when there were tough, divisive issues involving agriculture and food in Oregon, Marty was always at the top of the list of people who could sit down at a table, roll up his sleeves, and listen and work with folks with widely differing perspectives to help find solutions that work for everyone.

As an innovator, with his vision for Threemile Canyon Farm as a source of renewable energy, and an integrated producer of high-quality food, Marty was ahead of his time. The ideas he pioneered are now being adopted more and more rapidly by other producers because he and his team demonstrated that sustainability and the bottom line can go hand in hand.

As a connector and bridge-builder, Marty helped diverse groups grapple with divisive issues like genetically-modified food, agricultural marketing and water management. While these efforts weren't always fully successful, the work created lasting relationships between people and communities with differing perspectives that is part of the connective tissue that is so important to our state.

We need more people like Marty in Oregon, and he is missed. I urge the committee to pass SCR 16 on to the full Senate for its approval. Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on the life of a highly-regarded Oregonian.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Whitman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Richard Whitman
8002 SE 34th
Portland, Oregon