



DANA HAYNES

Saturday, May 1, 2021

To: Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, Chair, House Rules Committee
Rep. Christine Drazan, Vice Chair, House Rules Committee
Members of the House Rules Committee

Re: Support for SCR 3 — Tribute to Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Members of the Committee:

As a journalist covering politics in Portland, I've often attended town hall sessions with lawmakers. One of them, a few years back, in a conference room at Good Samaritan Hospital, featured Rep. Mitch Greenlick. The representative was feeling his years, I believe, and he looked fatigued. And the room was filled with a very small but very loud group expounding theories regarding childhood vaccines. Rep. Greenlick, a man of science, arrived early, sat through all the commentary, disagreed with them, took angry broadsides, shrugged them off, and kept his answers simple and honest. No minds were changed that day.

Afterward, I headed to the MAX light rail line. Mitch and Harriet Greenlick waited for the train with me. As we headed back toward downtown. I asked him how he put up with those townhalls.

We chatted the whole ride. He told him how he felt about a wide array of issues. I didn't produce my notepad or pencil; none of this was on the record. I asked about policy, and procedure, and practice, and Mitch and Harriet told me where they both stood, asking me as many questions as I asked them.

I never wrote a word about that encounter. This wasn't a news story, it was just two Portlanders, talking to another one. It was honest and interesting and occasionally hilarious.

And I doubted most Oregonians ever got to see this side of any lawmaker.

I'm privileged to have covered Rep. Greenlick over several sessions. And I'm glad he represented my city at the Legislature. Smart, acerbic, occasionally ornery, and ever thoughtful.

As I can imagine him saying with that droll delivery of his, "SCR 3. Good bill, should pass."

Dana Haynes