

Governor Barbara Roberts

Senate Committee on Rules

Att: Sen. Lew Frederick

Re: SCR 22 Hearing

To Sen. Fredrick and Senate Rules Committee Members;

I write today in support of SCR22 as this Resolution extends a public apology from the Oregon Legislature to Robert R. Parker, Jr. for 31 years of wrongful damage suffered by Mr. Parker.

Robert Parker arrived in Oregon with his new law degree from North Carolina, dreams for a new business, and expectations of becoming a successful Oregon citizen. He took a position as Committee Administrator for the Senate Business, Housing, and Finance Committee for the 1987 session. He passed the Oregon bar exam. Robert was beginning to live his dream.

It was during that 1987 session that I met Robert Parker. My late husband Frank Roberts was a respected member of the Oregon Senate. I was serving as Oregon Secretary of State. We found Robert to be friendly, enthusiastic, bright, and anxious to learn more about Oregon...the ideal new Oregon citizen.

However, Robert soon faced racial discrimination, false accusations, and the questioning of his moral character and his fitness to practice law in Oregon.

Robert Parker was, and still is, a victim of racial discrimination. This legislative system and our state owe him a profound apology.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 finally gives this committee, this legislature, and Oregon the opportunity to do the right thing for Mr. Parker. SCR 22 has my full support. I strongly hope you will join me in that support.

Governor Barbara Roberts

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail on the "t".