

## Enrolled

# House Concurrent Resolution 24

Sponsored by Representative REYNOLDS, Senators STEINER, DEMBROW, Representative GOMBERG, Senators FREDERICK, WAGNER

Whereas when political strategist Leonard Jules “Len” Bergstein died on October 17, 2022, Oregon lost a sharp political mind and an eternal optimist; and

Whereas Len Bergstein left a lasting legacy in his adopted home—Oregon—and the city he championed for decades—Portland; and

Whereas Len Bergstein inspired all who worked with and for him by approaching every day, issue and relationship with unmatched passion and tenacity; and

Whereas Oregonians from all walks of life sought Len’s counsel and guidance to build partnerships that could navigate the most labyrinthine bureaucratic obstacle courses; and

Whereas Len Bergstein shared his view of the world through a political lens for viewers of Portland television station KGW; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was well respected in the Jewish community, a longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel and a true mensch; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was born in New York City on November 13, 1945, and he attended Wesleyan University; and

Whereas Len Bergstein earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law while teaching middle school and taking summer courses, bunking in a room across the hall from his two younger brothers; and

Whereas Len Bergstein moved to Oregon in 1972 at the invitation of his second-year law school roommate, Steve McCarthy, who immediately had Len summit Mount Hood; and

Whereas Len Bergstein began his career in politics at the Legislative Action Center at Legal Aid; and

Whereas Len Bergstein worked for and with some of Oregon’s most iconic leaders—Betty Roberts, Bob Straub, Gladys McCoy, Neil Goldschmidt, Charles Jordan, Vera Katz and Ted Kulongoski, among many others—as they translated values and disruption into urban institutions; and

Whereas Len Bergstein influenced agriculture, technology, health care, urban planning, Indigenous-owned casinos, forestry, shipping, manufacturing, winemaking, real estate, hospitality, transportation and athletics throughout Oregon for more than 40 years through his influential firm, Northwest Strategies; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was known as a fighter for all his clients, and he watched them and their colleagues apply iconic private-sector leadership skills to notable public projects that benefit us all, including Tom Moyer (TMT Development), Kathryn Harrison (Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon), Harry Demorest (Columbia Forest Products), Marty Myers (Threemile Canyon Farms), Marsha Congdon (US West), Jay Zidell (The Zidell Companies), Gun Denhart (Hanna Andersson), Bill Furman (The Greenbrier Companies), Susan Sokol Blosser (Sokol Blosser Winery), Dave Sanders and Albert DiPiero (ZoomCare), Sam Naito (Made in Oregon), Harry Glickman (Portland Trail Blazers), Rukaiyah Adams (Albina Vision Trust), Jim Etzel (Sport Oregon) and Kate Delhagen (Oregon Sports Angels); and

Whereas Len Bergstein volunteered his time and counsel for many Oregon organizations, including the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Sport Oregon, Oregon Sports Angels and Albina Vision Trust; and

Whereas Len Bergstein’s insatiable curiosity fueled his desire to build meaningful relationships that could propel him onward in his pursuit of expertise; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was a devoted family man, a loving husband and father and a doting grandfather, who loved following the careers of all his children, and he was especially thrilled that his son David had a notable career as a Democratic communications operative, especially in his current role as communications director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; and

Whereas Len Bergstein loved spending time with his family all over Oregon, including summiting Black Butte with his children during summer stints at Black Butte Ranch, seeking out favorite seafood haunts with his wife while staying at resorts and hotels on the Oregon coast, exploring Oregon’s wine country and bringing quarters for his grandchildren to cram into the fish food machine at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery on the Metolius River; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was the standard-bearer for his family and is survived by his wife of 38 years, Betsy; his children, David Bergstein, Mikhael Romain (Evan Hansen) and Danelle Romain (R.D. Symms); his two younger brothers; and four grandchildren; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was revered as a teacher and storyteller by his family; and

Whereas Len Bergstein was able to make whomever he spoke to feel like they were the most important person in the room, and he punctuated many exchanges with a reassuring smile, if not outright guileless laughter; and

Whereas Len Bergstein believed and always told his children that “a setback is a setup for a comeback”; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Leonard Jules “Len” Bergstein for his lifetime of counsel, service and dedication to make Oregon a better place to live, work and play for all of us; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Len Bergstein as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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Adopted by House March 14, 2023

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 26, 2023

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate