

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

For the record, my name is Kathleen Hill. I live in Chiloquin, Oregon, am a citizen of the Klamath Tribes, and have previously served as an elected member of tribal government. I currently serve on the Board of Trustees for Oregon Institute of Technology. I am here to testify in support of HCR 25, which commemorates Oregon Tech's 75-year legacy of service.

Over the past 75 years, Oregon Tech has provided substantial benefits to the Klamath Basin community, and to our State. This institution, which started as a vocational center for veterans returning home from World War II, has evolved into our State's premier polytechnic university. Oregon Tech now has a campus in Wilsonville, a dental hygiene clinic in Salem, the Oregon Manufacturing and Innovation Center in Scappoose, does programming for Boeing employees in Washington, and sustains our residential campus in Klamath Falls.

As a Klamath Tribes citizen, I appreciate the fact that Oregon Tech and the Klamath Tribes have an MOU that supports educational attainment for our students and collaborative research projects.

This hearing to consider a resolution celebrating Oregon Tech's accomplishments and contributions is important. Our institutions of higher education are worth celebrating.

All students deserve an opportunity to pursue their own higher education journeys, just as Oregon Tech recognized in the aftermath of World War II. Since then, Oregon Tech has helped thousands of students pursue their dreams. In fact, our graduates boast the highest median starting salaries and highest workforce participation rates of any public university in Oregon.

As we say in my tribal language – moo sepk'eec'a – thank you very much for your service to our State, and for considering HCR 25.

Please let me know if you have any questions.