

Senate Concurrent Resolution 23

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Pledges that the State of Oregon wants to work together with a province in Ukraine. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.5).

Creates a ceremonial relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Ukraine gained independence in 1991 and is a sovereign, democratic and law-based
3 state that protects basic human rights and liberties; and

4 Whereas Article 15 of Ukraine's constitution states that Ukrainian social life shall be "based
5 on the principles of political, economic and ideological diversity"; and

6 Whereas Article 15 further states that no ideology is recognized as mandatory by the state;
7 censorship is prohibited; and the state guarantees freedom of political activities not prohibited by
8 the constitution and laws of Ukraine; and

9 Whereas in July 2014, Ukraine was officially recognized as an ally of the United States by the
10 U.S. Senate; and

11 Whereas in December 2022, speaking before a joint session of the United States Congress,
12 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the American people for their support of Ukraine
13 and for their resolve for Ukrainian independence and victory; and

14 Whereas there are more than 22,000 Ukrainian Americans in Oregon, and Oregon has been a
15 home and refuge for Ukrainian immigrants for decades; and

16 Whereas the State of Oregon acknowledges the significant contributions of the Ukrainian com-
17 munity residing within its borders, which has brought forth an array of talents, entrepreneurial
18 spirit and traditions that have deeply enriched Oregon's economy, culture and civic life; and

19 Whereas Oregon was among the first U.S. states to officially recognize the tragedy of the
20 Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, including the passage of Senate Bill 583 (2023), which estab-
21 lished Holodomor Remembrance Day; and

22 Whereas approximately 4,500 Ukrainians have arrived in Oregon since Russia invaded Ukraine
23 in February 2022, upending their lives and forcing them to flee the danger and destruction inflicted
24 on their homeland; and

25 Whereas Oregon's Department of Human Services plans to distribute \$2.25 million in federal
26 grants to help refugees from war-torn Ukraine gain access to housing assistance, employment ser-
27 vices, health and mental health programs, legal services and aid for senior citizens; and

28 Whereas within Oregon, the City of Corvallis shares a sister city relationship with the
29 Ukrainian community of Uzhhorod, and the City of Portland shares a friendship city relationship
30 with the City of Lviv in Ukraine; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas more than 30 communities in Ukraine maintain a sister city or similar relationship
2 with communities in the United States; and

3 Whereas in 2024, Ihor Taburets, the Governor of Cherkasy Oblast, met virtually with Oregon’s
4 Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs and
5 requested a formalized sister state relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast;
6 and

7 Whereas Oregon and the Cherkasy region of Ukraine share many mutual values, aspirations and
8 interests, including economic cooperation, education, arts and culture, agriculture, energy,
9 governance, health, biotechnology, humanitarian assistance, environmental sustainability, science
10 and technology; and

11 Whereas Russian military forces committed an unprovoked and unjustified attack on the people
12 of Ukraine, inflicting catastrophic loss of life and destruction; and

13 Whereas on February 24, 2025, a peaceful solidarity gathering was held at Pioneer Courthouse
14 Square in Portland to mark the third anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine; and

15 Whereas the Legislative Assembly recognizes and thanks the many organizations and groups in
16 Oregon, such as the nonprofit entity DAWN, which have provided vital humanitarian aid and sup-
17 port to the Ukrainian community; now, therefore,

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

19 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, support the establishment of a
20 sister state ceremonial relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine; and
21 be it further

22 Resolved, That the State of Oregon stands in unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine,
23 and we condemn in the strongest terms Russia’s premeditated and unjust war against a peaceful,
24 sovereign nation; and be it further

25 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the Governor of Cherkasy Oblast
26 as an expression of our solidarity and commitment to this partnership.

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