

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong support for SCR 23, which establishes a sister state relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine. This resolution marks an important step in fostering stronger economic, cultural, and diplomatic ties between our two regions, and demonstrates Oregon's unwavering support for the people of Ukraine as they continue their brave defense of sovereignty and democracy.

Cherkasy Oblast, located in the heart of Ukraine, is an economic powerhouse, with key industries in agriculture, chemical production, and machinery manufacturing. Its agricultural output, including grains and livestock, plays a vital role in the Ukrainian economy. Oregon's rich agricultural sector, with its commitment to innovation and sustainability, presents significant opportunities for collaboration. By working together, our regions can explore new markets, improve agricultural practices, and share valuable expertise to bolster food security and sustainability in both areas.

Beyond the economic benefits, a sister state relationship between Oregon and Cherkasy will foster meaningful educational and cultural exchanges. For years, the bond between the United States and Ukraine has been strengthened by shared values of democracy, human rights, and freedom. As Ukraine continues to face immense challenges, it is crucial that we enhance opportunities for Oregonians to connect with the people of Cherkasy through programs that promote mutual understanding, academic collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. With its rich cultural history and stunning heritage sites, Cherkasy Oblast is an ideal partner to help foster greater awareness and appreciation between our two regions.

This sister state relationship will not only provide tangible benefits in areas of trade, education, and cultural exchange, but also reflect Oregon's steadfast commitment to supporting Ukraine during this critical time in its history. By passing SCR 23, we can take a significant step forward in strengthening the bonds of friendship and solidarity between our people.

I respectfully urge you to support SCR 23 and demonstrate Oregon's dedication to global partnerships and the defense of freedom and democracy. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important resolution.

Sincerely,

Zhanna Belinska