

Submitter: Joel Gerston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency  
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR23

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. For context, Ukraine has been under siege for three years, trying to defend itself against a superior military power that has ruthlessly targeted innocent civilians, destroyed billions of dollars of infrastructure, and stolen Ukrainian lands. Furthermore, Russia's unprovoked attack and land grab in Ukraine is consistent with Russian political meddling in European countries, cyber attacks on European utilities and financial institutions, and the destruction of European underwater internet cables. For these reasons, most analysts believe that if Russia succeeds in annexing portions of Ukraine they will feel emboldened to attack other countries in the region, such as Georgia, Moldova and the Baltic republics.

How does this relate to the US and to our lovely state of Oregon? First, we are a nation (and state) of laws and we stand proudly against outlaw nations that violate international laws and norms. Second, we care deeply about our allies in Europe who are threatened by an emboldened Russia. And finally, we need to make a statement to our European friends as well as the White House that supporting Ukrainian freedom and democratic allies is an important value for Oregonians.

This bill will send a clear message to the people of Ukraine, our fellow Americans, and a renegade administration in Washington that Oregonians care deeply about this issue.