

Submitter: Alevtyna Semeno

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, a resolution that would establish a sister state relationship between Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast. This initiative is a meaningful step toward strengthening economic and cultural ties between our regions while reaffirming Oregon's steadfast support for Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty and democracy.

Cherkasy Oblast, situated in central Ukraine, is a key contributor to the nation's economy and culture. It is a leader in industries such as food production, chemical manufacturing, machine engineering, and pharmaceuticals. Given Oregon's expertise in agriculture and environmental stewardship, this partnership presents a valuable opportunity for collaboration. Strengthening economic ties between our regions could lead to enhanced agricultural productivity, expanded trade, and new business opportunities, particularly at a time when Ukraine is in urgent need of economic support.

Beyond economic benefits, this sister state relationship will encourage educational and cultural exchanges that foster deeper connections between Oregon and Cherkasy. Over the past three years, the U.S.-Ukraine partnership has been vital to Ukraine's resilience as it fights to uphold democratic values and human rights. However, many Americans have had limited direct engagement with Ukraine, and for many Ukrainians, the United States remains a distant concept. By facilitating student and faculty exchanges, joint academic initiatives, and cultural programs, this partnership will help bridge that gap, strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation. Cherkasy's rich cultural heritage, which includes over 9,000 historic sites and 300 sacred landmarks, makes it an ideal partner for fostering greater awareness and appreciation between our communities.

Establishing this sister state relationship is not only a gesture of solidarity but also a reflection of Oregon's enduring commitment to human rights, democracy, and international collaboration. This partnership will serve as both a symbol of unity and a practical step toward supporting Ukraine's recovery and long-term development.

I urge you to support SCR 23 and affirm Oregon's commitment to global cooperation and the defense of freedom. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this

important resolution.

Sincerely,
Alevtyna