

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Edward Buck-Shannon and I am a policy associate at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). EMO is an interfaith association with over 750 member congregations across the state.

We are proud to serve the Ukrainian community in Oregon through our direct service programs like SOAR, immigration Legal Services and Slavic Oregon Social Services. We provide free legal aid, support for survivors of domestic violence, food assistance and other services.

As an interfaith organization we strive to bring Oregon's diverse communities together to foster cross cultural friendship, dialogue and understanding. SCR 23 does just that by designating Cherkasy Oblast as Oregon's sister state.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine three years ago we have been inspired by the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people. Personally I would consider it an honor to share a relationship like this with the people of Cherkasy and I know many Oregonians feel the same.

Thank You for Your Time and Consideration,
Edward Buck-Shannon
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon