



March 20, 2025

House Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the House Rules Committee,

On behalf of the Korean/ Korean American communities in Oregon, we request your support for HB 3595 to recognize the significance of Lunar New Year. This recognition has a profound impact on our communities and aligns with Oregon's commitment to honoring cultural diversity.

Lunar New Year is one of the most important cultural day for many East and Southeast Asian communities in the United States and worldwide. Over 130,000 to 180,000 Oregonians, including many Korean community members celebrate this day.

Lunar New Year, known as "Seollal" in Korean culture, is one of the most significant traditions, symbolizing family unity, and cultural heritage. In Oregon, Korean American families and communities observe Seollal by gathering, preparing and sharing traditional foods like Tteokguk (rice cake soup) or Mandoo (dumplings), symbolizing the gaining of a year in age and good fortune. We also engage in traditional games, and storytelling, and wear traditional attire, Hanbok, enriching Oregon's cultural tapestry.

Recognizing Lunar New Year would boost local economies through festivities that attract attendees to cultural events, restaurants, and markets, stimulating economic activity and supporting local businesses. It would also promote cultural awareness and encourage educational opportunities that foster understanding and appreciation of Korean and other Asian cultures.

By passing HB 3595, Oregon would take a meaningful step toward recognizing the contributions and traditions of its diverse communities while fostering greater unity and inclusivity. We urge you to support this bill and affirm the significance of Lunar New Year for present and future generations.

In community service,

Dr. Edward Kimmi

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea in Northern Oregon

Francesca Kim

President of the Korean Society of Oregon
(KSO)

Brian Choe

President of Korean American Coalition (KAC)