



Chinese Friendship Association of Portland
11575 SW Pacific Hwy Unit 2193, Tigard, OR 97223
<http://portlandcfa.org>

March 1st, 2025

Re: Support Bill HB 3595

Dear House Committee on Rules:

I am writing to express our strongest support for Bill HB 3595. We sincerely urge the state to recognize Lunar New Year as an official state holiday, honoring its cultural significance and the communities that celebrate it.

The Chinese Friendship Association of Portland (CFAP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with over 32 years of experience serving local communities. Our mission is to empower and engage the Chinese and Asian communities in Oregon, fostering active participation in cultural, civic, and public service initiatives. Through our work, we strive to build a resourceful, inclusive, and harmonious society.

This year marks a significant milestone in the effort to recognize Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon. While neighboring states like California and Washington have already adopted this recognition, CFAP is working with State Representative Dr. Tran to introduce a bill for Oregon. The effort has broad support to make this remarkable celebration an officially recognized holiday in Oregon.

Recognizing Lunar New Year in Oregon: A Step Toward Inclusion

Lunar New Year holds deep cultural significance for many Oregon communities, particularly Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents. Official recognition of the holiday would honor the heritage of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, foster inclusivity, and contribute to the state's economic and social well-being.

Recognizing the Cultural Significance of Lunar New Year in Oregon

Lunar New Year is a cornerstone celebration for many Asian communities, which have enriched Oregon's cultural landscape for over 150 years. Granting official recognition to the holiday would honor their contributions and promote greater cultural awareness, appreciation, and unity across the state.

The Economic Impact of Lunar New Year Celebrations in Oregon

Lunar New Year events play a vital role in Oregon's economy, driving business growth and consumer spending. Official recognition of the holiday would further enhance economic opportunities by encouraging broader participation and increasing commercial activity during this vibrant season.

The Impact on Public Employees and K-12 Students

For many Oregon families, celebrating Lunar New Year currently requires taking time off from school or work, often using personal leave. Official recognition of the holiday would ensure students can fully participate in cultural traditions without academic penalties. It will support public employees, educators, and workers who observe Lunar New Year with their families. It promotes inclusivity by aligning Oregon's holiday calendar with the cultural diversity of its residents.

Summary

Recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon will be a laudable step toward honoring traditions, strengthening cultural appreciation, and boosting economic growth. It ensures that families can celebrate together without barriers, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all. We proudly support HB 3595.

Sincerely yours,

David Ji, Ph.D.
President of CFAP and Professor of Chemistry