

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

Whereas the song “Oregon, My Oregon” with words by John A. Buchanan and music by Henry B. Murtagh was adopted by the Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly as the state song of the State of Oregon in 1927 (Senate Joint Resolution 3 (1927)); and

Whereas there has been significant cultural, historical, economic and societal evolution in Oregon in the 94 years since “Oregon, My Oregon” was adopted as the state song; and

Whereas black and Chinese people suffered from de jure exclusion in the early decades of Oregon’s statehood; and

Whereas Oregon has been, and continues to be, home to native peoples from time immemorial; and

Whereas there is an active and ongoing national movement to secure truly equal treatment for peoples of all racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas many musicians, bands and choral groups would like to perform the Oregon state song but do not feel it is appropriate to present the current lyrics in public; and

Whereas Oregonians of all backgrounds deserve an inclusive way to celebrate our great state in song; and

Whereas the Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly found it “eminently proper” that a state song be adopted; and

Whereas we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, find it eminently proper that a state song reflect both historical traditions and the cultural, historical, economic and societal evolution

that the state has experienced over the passage of time up to and including modernity; now, therefore,
Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That the lyrics of the song “Oregon, My Oregon” be modified by lyrics written by Oregonian Amy Donna Shapiro, so that “Land of the Empire Builders, Land of the Golden West; Conquered and held by free men, Fairest and the Best” in the first verse is replaced with “Land of Majestic Mountains, Land of the Great Northwest; Forests and rolling rivers, Grandest and the best” and so that “Blest by the blood of martyrs” in the second verse is replaced with “Blessed by the love of freedom”; and be it further

Resolved, That, as modified, the lyrics of “Oregon, My Oregon” be as follows:

“Land of Majestic Mountains,
 “Land of the Great Northwest;
 “Forests and rolling rivers,
 “Grandest and the best.
 “Onward and upward ever,
 “Forward and on, and on;
 “Hail to thee, Land of Heroes,
 “My Oregon.

“Land of the rose and sunshine
 “Land of the summer’s breeze;
 “Laden with health and vigor,
 “Fresh from the Western seas.
 “Blessed by the love of freedom,
 “Land of the setting sun;
 “Hail to thee, Land of Promise,
 “My Oregon.”

Filed in the office of Secretary of State June 9, 2021