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NEWS RELEASE

November 19, 2018

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COURTNEY APPOINTS JOHNSON, STEINER HAYWARD AS JOINT SENATE CO-CHAIRS OF WAYS & MEANS

(SALEM) – Senate President Peter Courtney announced today that Senators Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) and Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-NW Portland/Beaverton) will share the duties of Senate co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee in the 2019 session.

“Senator Johnson and Senator Steiner Hayward are two of the most experienced budgeteers in the Legislature. They have 25 years of Ways and Means experience between them,” said Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn) “They are accomplished individuals. One is a doctor. The other is pilot with a law degree. They know and respect each other. One is private sector. The other is public sector. They have worked well together in the past. I know they will make a formidable team.”

Johnson has served on the Joint Ways and Means Committee since 2001, when she was in the House. She has served continuously on the full committee for the last 18 years. She has experience on four of the six current sub-committees, having served as Senate co-chair of both the Sub-Committee on General Government and the Sub-Committee on Transportation and Economic Development. She has served as co-vice chair of full Ways and Means since 2015.

Steiner Hayward began Ways and Means service in her first session in 2012 as a member of two sub-committees. She joined the full committee in 2013 and has served on four of the six current sub-committees including serving as co-chair of the Sub-Committee on General Government and Sub-Committee on Human Services.

Johnson, a native Oregonian, served two terms in the House before being appointed to the Senate in 2005. Her father, the late Sam Johnson, was a member of the House of Representatives from

Redmond. Senator Johnson received her undergraduate degree in history from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and her law degree from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. A licensed commercial pilot of both fixed and rotor-wing aircraft, she founded Transwestern Helicopters, Inc. in 1978. The helicopter division of the firm was sold in 1993 and the company, now known as Transwestern Aviation, Inc., is managed by her husband, John Helm.

Steiner Hayward received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts. She moved to Portland to complete her residency in Family Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). She is employed at Oregon Health & Sciences University, where she teaches medical students and residents as a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine. She and her husband Michael have three adult daughters and live in unincorporated Multnomah County.