



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 19, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HR 3

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

When I first reviewed HR 3, I had concerns about the resolution's narrow focus. I felt it did not fully reflect the broad and diverse history of Oregon's African American community and initially intended to vote no.

However, after listening carefully to my colleagues' remarks on the House floor, I was moved by the spirit of the resolution — a sincere effort to acknowledge and honor the contributions and lived experiences of African Americans in Oregon, including those who have often been left out of our historical narratives.

I ultimately voted yes out of a belief in the importance of recognizing the many ways individuals contribute to our shared society. My support should not be interpreted as an endorsement of every aspect mentioned in the resolution, but rather as an affirmation of the principle that all people — regardless of background or profession — deserve dignity and the opportunity to be part of Oregon's ongoing story.

I recognize that some in our community may have strong reservations, particularly regarding certain cultural expressions. I hear and respect those views. At the same time, I believe we can hold differing perspectives and still come together to honor the diversity within our state in a way that is respectful and unifying.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Mannix