

Commissioners-

Since June of 2008 I've represented the people of House District 34. My wife and I have lived in the district since 1988 and both our kids went through the Beaverton public schools several years ago. I'm now in the middle of my second term in the House and looking forward to continuing my public service by moving to the Senate for the upcoming session. I want to make this move so I may contribute my skills and expertise to address issues facing the state in the most appropriate setting. Three years ago, that setting was the House; now it is the Senate.

I didn't set out to be a legislator; I'm a scientist and businessman, a husband, father and son. What got me into politics was seeing the demise of public education in this state, and feeling I needed to do something about it. A strong public school system is essential for producing a strong and educated middle class. For decades this was a major strength of this country but it is now in serious jeopardy. I am in Salem to reverse that trend. My goal is to deliver public education at a level which will enable the young people of Oregon to develop and satisfy their curiosity, to learn the skills they'll need to become inventive, constructive adults who can think critically and creatively regardless of what field they enter.

We moved to Oregon in 1987 so I could take a job at OHSU and part of our decision to move here was for the quality of life. The position at OHSU paid significantly less than I'd been offered on the East Coast but this is where we wanted to live. We've enjoyed being here, visiting most counties of the state, and I feel obliged to protect what we have here. I've been an active supporter of environmental conservation for a long time and my votes in Salem reflect that. I'll continue to think and act that way in the Senate.

A new, relatively untrained person is going to serve in either the House or the Senate next month and that person should start in the House. One doesn't start a military career as a General and one doesn't enter medicine as a Cardiologist. Training matters. My experience in the Capitol and the relationships I've built there make me the person best suited to serve in the Senate.

I truly do consider it an honor to serve the people of Oregon in this way and to work with some wonderfully dedicated people. I ask your support in this nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration!

- Chris Harker