

I am asking a NO vote on HB 4071.

HB 4071 again addresses replacing Jason Lee's statute in the National Statuary Hall with Mark O Hatfield. Both Jason Lee and John McLoughlin, the current two statutes representing Oregon in the Hall had a significant impact on shaping the Oregon that we know. Mark Hatfield served his whole life for Oregon, but nothing he did has the impact either of our two founders had. If there is a state passion to recognize Hatfield, he should be put on the state grounds.

There are a lot of us that felt pride in our founding and the statutes representing our founding when visiting the National Statuary Hall in D.C. The Hall is being eroded from its value and Oregon should stand firm in its founding message. Except for Oregonians, Hatfield doesn't have a national significance that would be of interest to those visiting the National Statuary Hall. So he dedicated his life to his job, so did I. Did he put his life on the line to go into hostile territory, he didn't but Jason Lee did. So he was a man of reputation, honesty, integrity and intelligence, only in D.C. is that unusual.

A second concern with this bill is the disrespect it shows to Native American history in our state. It was at the Native American request that brought Jason Lee to this territory. To take Jason Lee from a position of prominence in D.C. is a slap in the face to the Native Americans of this state. By leaving this recognition out of the bill is biasing the statements in the bill.

Third, it takes a 9 member task force, rules and studies taking our legislators away from important matters with economic significance. Does it really take that many people to make insignificant studies? This is a poor use of resources and man power.

Fourth, it calls for a fundraiser for the statute. Most fundraisers of this kind end up in our schools. What message will this send our kids about disrespecting the importance of the first man that influenced the shaping of the Oregon territory? Replacing a man that risk his life for our state with a person that worked hard. What kind of message is that?

Lastly, the bill has an emergency clause eliminating any voice of the citizens. This is legislative power being pushed on its citizens. If this is to represent Oregon to the nation and to the world visitors to the National Statuary Hall, it should be supported by the majority of Oregonians and put to a vote.

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