

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 21, 2018

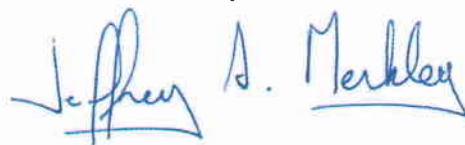
Thank you all for coming out today for the lighting of the World Peace Flame. It is my pleasure to join this community in celebrating and recognizing the United Nations International Day of Peace. Now, more than ever, we need to remember the values of unity, hope and peace embodied in this event and in the World Peace Flame.

It is truly an honor for Oregon to receive this World Peace Flame. Thank you to Irene Kai and David Wick for bringing this beautiful idea to realization. This flame, which will be located here in Ashland, is the second World Peace Flame in the United States; just one other is located in Tennessee at the Civil Rights Museum. By exemplifying the motto, "One Flame, uniting people, worldwide," this flame will preserve the message of the need for unity in this community, and across the globe.

Today, we also gather to honor the Native Americans who lived on this land for thousands of years prior to settlers coming west. We also honor the Chinese laborers who worked in gold mines here in Oregon 200 years ago. We cannot ignore the hardships they faced, and we will use this flame to acknowledge those challenges, and appreciate the people who stood on this ground before us.

As an international representation of hope and the right to peace and unity, this flame serves as a symbol to remind us of the importance to come together as a worldwide community.

All My Best,



Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator for Oregon