

Dear Governor Kotek,

We are saddened and dismayed by the circumstances leading to the resignation of Secretary of State, Shemia Fagan. However, this provides us with an opening and an opportunity to improve the lot of, not only Democrats, but all the citizens of Oregon.

Rural Oregon is sparsely represented by Democrats in Salem. That is understandable since rural Oregon is so very conservative. It is so difficult to get Democrats elected to any public office in this area. Yet we have the very qualified, extremely talented, and exceedingly popular Jamie McLeod-Skinner living in our midst in Terrebonne, Oregon.

Ms. McLeod-Skinner has an aptitude and a passion for public service. After obtaining a B.S. in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute she earned a master's degree from Cornell in city and regional planning. She attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2006. In 2016, she graduated with a J.D. from the University of Oregon. By the time she ran for Secretary of State in 2020, McLeod-Skinner was an attorney and natural resource consultant.

Ms. McLeod-Skinner began her public service managing the repairs of schools and hospitals in post-war Bosnia and Kosovo before returning to the U.S. to manage refugee resettlement programs, work in city and environmental planning, and serve on a city council. She has led organizational change, mediated community disputes, and protected our natural resources. In 2021, Jamie led wildfire recovery efforts as Interim City Manager in a southern Oregon city that lost a third of its homes and businesses to a catastrophic fire, managed her team through crises and developed the relationships to bring in millions of recovery aid dollars and emergency housing while ensuring culturally appropriate services for those impacted. She currently serves as a Regional Emergency Coordinator, helping to provide affordable housing to those in need.

Her public service includes serving on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, where she co-chairs the Water and Climate Committee, led passage of a Climate Resolution, and expanded the agency's work with Tribal Nations and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jamie also serves on the Jefferson County Education Service

District Board, where she led passage of a racial justice and equity policy and the development of an Advisory Board to increase community input.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner ran an incredible campaign in the very red Oregon Congressional District 2 against the entrenched incumbent, Greg Walden in 2018. She crisscrossed the huge CD2 numerous times pulling a teardrop trailer behind her jeep, meeting, speaking, and listening to the citizens in every city, town, village, and corner of the district. She forced Walden to spend his ample war chest campaigning for himself rather than distribute to other GOP candidates throughout the country. She may have lost to Walden, but she was much closer than his previous opponents by a long shot. And, simultaneously, her run may have negatively impacted other GOP candidates in other parts of the country since they could not rely on funding from Walden.

In 2020, Jamie finished a respectable third place in the primary against future Secretary of State winner, Shemia Fagan. In 2022, McLeod-Skinner beat the incumbent, Kurt Schrader, handily in the primary, only to lose a very close race to the Republican winner of Oregon Congressional District 5, Lori Chavez-DeRemer by 2.2%.

Jamie was born in rural Wisconsin, grew up in rural Tanzania and rural Oregon, and has lived most of her life in rural areas. She knows and understands rural people. And we know and understand Jamie. She is very much loved and respected by so many of us. While she has the credentials and the attitude to serve all of Oregon's citizens well, she will be a voice for rural Oregon that we do not currently have.

Consequently, the Josephine County Democrats highly recommend that you choose Jamie McLeod-Skinner to represent us as our next Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

Colette Storms
Chair
Josephine County Democrats