

SENATE RESOLUTION

8643

By Senators Nguyen, Billig, Cleveland, Conway, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hawkins, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Liiias, Lovelett, Lovick, Mullet, Nobles, Pedersen, Randall, Robinson, Rolfes, Saldaña, Salomon, Shewmake, Stanford, Torres, Trudeau, Valdez, Van De Wege, Warnick, Wellman, C. Wilson, and L. Wilson

1       WHEREAS, Gary Wilburn has served the Legislature with distinction  
2 for more than 35 years, providing invaluable counsel to hundreds of  
3 elected officials; and

4       WHEREAS, Before landing in Olympia, Gary earned his law degree  
5 from Stanford and spent time as a trial lawyer in the Natural  
6 Resources Division of the United States Justice Department; and

7       WHEREAS, Gary was hired by Senate Committee Services in December  
8 of 1986, just in time for the 1987 legislative session. It was Booth  
9 Gardner's first term as governor and legislators were beginning work  
10 on what would later become the Growth Management Act; and

11       WHEREAS, Gary spent a decade with Senate Committee Services,  
12 staffing various environmental committees tackling issues like solid  
13 waste, the transport of toxic materials, and new waste-to-energy  
14 incinerators; and

15       WHEREAS, Gary joined the Senate Democratic Caucus in 1996, using  
16 his skillset and knowledge of natural resource issues to help  
17 minority Democrats battle over salmon recovery, growth issues, and  
18 water resources; and

19       WHEREAS, Gary's brain arguably contains more obscure legislative  
20 acronyms than any other individual on the Capitol Campus, and he can  
21 rattle off water rights rulings quicker than you can spell Hirst or  
22 Foster; and

1           WHEREAS, Gary has seen the majority in the Senate change  
2 eight times, served under five different governors, and shared  
3 his unique institutional knowledge to the benefit of hundreds of  
4 members, staffers, and interns over the years; and

5           WHEREAS, Gary has been instrumental in our state's efforts  
6 to address climate change, culminating with his work on the  
7 Climate Commitment Act of 2021; and

8           WHEREAS, Gary has reduced his own carbon footprint over the  
9 years with thousands of bicycle commutes to and from the Capitol  
10 Campus; and

11           WHEREAS, Gary and his wife Jane raised their two children,  
12 Eric and Kate, while juggling busy legislative sessions and now  
13 watch with pride as they pursue careers in environmental  
14 engineering and public health; and

15           WHEREAS, Gary has been known to get caught looking longingly  
16 at topographical maps of the Pacific Northwest hanging in his  
17 office, dreaming of his next adventure into our region's  
18 beautiful landscapes; and

19           WHEREAS, Gary has earned a permanent interim to enjoy his  
20 retirement with his family and friends, but his legislative  
21 family will miss his talent and passion for our democracy and  
22 our state's environmental health;

23           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate, in  
24 recognition of his unwavering dedication to public service,  
25 honor and thank Gary Wilburn and wish him well as he retires  
26 from the Senate; and

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
28 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Gary  
29 Wilburn.

30 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
31 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
32 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8643,  
33 adopted by the Senate  
34 April 17, 2023

35 SARAH BANNISTER

1 Secretary of the Senate