

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH

The towering forests of Oregon have anchored our state throughout history. Even today, our forests represent the economic, physical, and spiritual bedrock of our state. For over a century, Oregon forests have provided the lumber and wood products that have built the homes that shelter the families of this great nation.

It is, therefore, most appropriate and fitting that a symbol of the resource that anchors Oregon be in permanent place upon the grounds of our nation's Capitol.

The motto of Oregon is "The Union." This great Noble Fir thus symbolizes the everlasting commitment of our state and ^{our}~~its~~ citizens to the freedom through unity that binds our nation together. The tremendous growth and beauty of this tree will in turn remind all Americans of the unique pride and pioneer achievements of Oregon and Oregonians.

As Governor of the State of Oregon, I proudly join with all Oregonians on the occasion of this Arbor Day ceremony. Here, we reaffirm both our own heritage and our commitment to the nation through the planting in our nation's Capitol of this great Oregon tree.