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**To the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court Board of Directors and College of Monarchs, and
the International Court Council Nomination Committee,**

It is my great honor to write in support of Kevin Cook—known and beloved by so many as Dr. Poison Waters—for nomination as the next Queen Mother of the Americas.

To know Poison is to understand what true leadership in community looks like. For nearly forty years, Poison has been a radiant force in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest: a performer, fundraiser, activist, educator, mentor, historian, and tireless advocate whose impact reaches far beyond any one stage or title.

While many know Poison as an extraordinary entertainer, those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Kevin understand that the real magic lies in the generosity behind the glamour. Few people have given more of themselves—more time, more energy, more heart—to their community over such a sustained period. Poison has helped raise millions of dollars, brought visibility to critical causes, and shown up, again and again, wherever leadership, joy, comfort, or a microphone were needed.

Her service to the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court is remarkable in both longevity and depth. From Rosebud/Jr. Empress in 1988 to First Lady, Princess XXV, Rose Empress XLIV, and now Queen Mother II of all Oregon, Poison's commitment to the Court has spanned nearly the entirety of her drag career. She has not only upheld the traditions of the Court—she has strengthened them, expanded them, and helped carry them forward for future generations.

What makes Poison uniquely deserving of this role is the rare combination of reverence for history and deep connection to the present. She is a steward of legacy while remaining profoundly relevant and engaged in the cultural life of today. Whether teaching Portland drag history at Portland Community College, mentoring young people through Camp KC, co-producing the record-breaking Drag-a-Thon, or standing at the center of civic celebrations across Oregon, Poison continues to bridge generations with intelligence, humor, compassion, and extraordinary grace.

Poison represents the very best of the International Court System: leadership through service, pageantry with purpose, and unwavering commitment to community. She carries herself with dignity and generosity while never losing the wit, warmth, and humanity that make people feel immediately welcome in her presence. She is deeply respected not only because of what she has accomplished, but because of how she has accomplished it—with consistency, humility, humor, and heart.

There are very few people who can genuinely be called institutions within a community. Poison Waters is one of them. Her influence has shaped countless lives, strengthened the visibility and resilience of LGBTQ+ communities across Oregon, and helped preserve an important cultural history while continuing to build its future.

I can think of no one more deserving to serve as Queen Mother of the Americas. Poison would bring wisdom, credibility, compassion, and extraordinary representation to this role, and I offer my wholehearted endorsement with great enthusiasm and admiration.

Sincerely,

Emma McIlroy
Founder & CEO, [Wildfang](#)