

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 1, 2026

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

I am writing today as the Oregon State Representative for House District 44, North and Northeast Portland, in support of Dr. Poison Waters' nomination for the next Queen Mother of the Americas. As Oregon's first openly LGBTQIA2+ Black legislator, I believe that it is important to recognize those who came before me and made it possible for me to hold my current position.

I had the honor of working with Poison on House Resolution 3 during the 2025 legislative session. The resolution recognized and celebrated Oregon's vibrant history of Black drag performers. Poison was instrumental in the formation and advocacy for this resolution success. She was one of the first people I reached out to when I decided to introduce this resolution because of her position as an adjunct professor at Portland Community College and the tremendous work she does teaching her course on Portland's Drag History. She contributed a large portion of the historical information for the resolution and testified in front of the House Committee on Rules to ensure its passage. Although the resolution was met with resistance from my Republican colleagues, the House of Representatives passed HR 3 on June 18th which was a day chosen to represent both Juneteenth and Pride Month. The passage of this resolution was meant as a symbol to all Black LGBTQIA2+ Oregonians that the legislature recognizes our community and celebrates the resilience, creativity and community impact of Black Queens such as Poison Waters.

Poison Waters has long been a staple in Oregon's LGBTQIA2+ community, and she is particularly important for Black Oregonians in the queer community. I believe her decades of representation, activism and performances in Oregon would be a benefit to the International Court System.

Sincerely,

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland