

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND

Historic Performance by All-Adult Marching Band Redefines "Rocking the House"

Salem, OR – With a visit to the State Capitol, **THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND (TBGO)** of Portland, Oregon redefined "Rocking the House" and made a little Oregon history as the 200-member all-adult marching band became the largest group and the first marching band ever to perform at an Oregon House session opening. Shortly after the opening gavel, thirty musicians and twirlers paraded down the center aisle to the front of the House chamber and provided a lively start to the session with renditions of We're An American Band and Louie Louie, or "the Northwest national anthem" as TBGO Director Steve Tolopka described the latter.

The high-energy performance earned a standing ovation from House members. Representative Jeff Reardon, who sponsored the band, joked "If I accomplish nothing else this session, that's good enough, right?" Video of the performance is available on the band's website at www.tbgo.org. Following the session adjournment, TBGO rocked out with a selection of its favorite tunes on the State Capitol steps.

TBGO's appearance was initiated by Twirler Suzanne Stoker, who contacted Rep. Reardon seeking the performance opportunity. "Working on legislation business is stressful and serious," Suzanne said, "And I knew the legislators would enjoy a fun break with our wonderful, inspiring marching band. And they surely did!"

President and Music Director Steve Tolopka discussed the historic performance: "The Oregon House had previously limited the size of performing groups to a dozen, so we had to get special permission from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House to bring as many as thirty members. Many thanks to Representative Reardon for inviting us to Salem, and we're thrilled that TBGO was honored as the first marching band ever to open an Oregon House session. It's a wonderful bit of Oregon history to add to the band's collection of fun and amazing memories."

The State Capitol performances capped a busy weekend in which TBGO brought home a First Place award from the Loyalty Days Parade in Long Beach, Washington. The band maintains a busy regional performance schedule that will be highlighted in 2013 by its first appearance at the world-famous Calgary Stampede in July.

TBGO is always seeking new members to join the fun and encourages any adult with band experience to apply at www.thebeatgoesonmb.org.

THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More events, more music, more smiles!

Want to come out and play?

Email: director@thebeatgoesonmb.org

Website: <http://thebeatgoesonmb.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand