

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

Governor John Kitzhaber
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

January 11, 1995

Dear John,

Since your inauguration in jeans I have weighed in my mind whether or not to write to you. Certainly I am aware of the public and media reaction to this form of dress. Some hailed it as "macho", some think it was "neat" and some even said it was "Oregon".

As politely as I can say it-----it was in very bad taste.

You do, and should, treasure your individuality. However, you must remember that you are no longer just John Kitzhaber, you are now GOVERNOR John Kitzhaber. There is a dignity and respect for the office that, in my mind, was demeaned on that solemn day of inauguration.

As time moves along you will find yourself representing us as our Governor on important occasions such as national and regional Governors conferences, invitations to the White House, swearing in of judges, etc. It is my hope that at those times you will pay the proper respect to the office of Governor that it deserves.

You will hear no more from me on this subject. I know you have been applauded in some quarters for your casual dress. However, if I am the only one who feels as I do (and I do not think so) I felt obliged to give my view.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh".

Victor Atiyeh

P.S. The cleaning lady in the building across the street feels the same as I---she mentioned it first.