

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 10

Sponsored by Senator GORDLY, Representative MERKLEY

Whereas Wyam, the great falls of N'ch-iwana, known to us as Celilo Falls of the Columbia River, thundered for millennia in the spiritual heart of the Northwest and was a natural wonder of the world; and

Whereas throughout the millennia Celilo Falls was the primary place where Native People caught the giant chinook, blue-back and coho salmon that struggled upstream through the rocky barrier of tumbling waters and swift, narrow channels. The Native People's record of habitation proves Wyam to be one of the longest continuously inhabited communities on this continent; and

Whereas for its thousands of years of human civilization, Wyam was one of the world's great market places, and a half-dozen tribes had permanent villages near the falls where some 5,000 people would gather to trade, feast and participate in games and religious ceremonies; and

Whereas the multitudes of salmon caught at Celilo Falls helped make the Lower Columbia River among the wealthiest places in what is now the United States and fostered a blossoming of rock art culminating in the petroglyph Tsagaglallal, or She-Who-Watches, and other great works; and

Whereas the images of the dip netters reaching from their vibrating scaffolds into the roiling river are an icon of the native Northwest; and

Whereas on March 10, 1957, the waters held back by The Dalles Dam flooded and silenced the awesome and sacred roar of Celilo Falls, severing a great spiritual connection between the Creator, Mother Earth and the Native Peoples of Oregon; and

Whereas the silence of the dead falls is rivaled only by the silence in the hearts of the elders who remember the thunder of the falls and the vibrant community struck down by the dam; and

Whereas the Tribes of the Columbia River and the people of Celilo Village will hold a memorial for Celilo Falls on March 10, 2007; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, mourn the flooding of Celilo Falls and recognize the falls' great importance to the native peoples of Oregon in providing sustenance from the salmon and a gathering place for all Tribes and agree to observe a moment of silence on March 10, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Tribal Council of the Nez Perce Tribe, the Wyam Board and the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Adopted by Senate March 12, 2007

Readopted by Senate May 22, 2007

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate

Adopted by House May 18, 2007

Speaker of House