

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 6

Sponsored by Senator GORDLY

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes importance of *Kiksht*, the Wasco language.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2 Whereas the *Kiksht* language arises from the lands of the middle Columbia River, which were  
3 given to the Wasco, Wishram and Watlala peoples of Oregon and Washington, whose descendants  
4 are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the Con-  
5 federated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and its related Chinookan languages are spoken  
6 by the peoples downstream who are members of the Chinook Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the  
7 Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz; and

8 Whereas *Kiksht* was the language of this place for over 10,000 years and was spoken by many  
9 thousands of Native people along the Columbia River who named all of the places in this area, who  
10 sculpted the greatest rock art in the Americas, as well as other works designed with marvelous,  
11 intricate and bold figures of humans, deer, sturgeon and condors, and who built the great canoes,  
12 both river and seafaring, and the large cedar plank houses suited to the region with a perfection  
13 unmatched even by today's standards; and

14 Whereas the villages of the *Kiksht* speakers were among the longest inhabited in the region and  
15 their residents were the exclusive dwellers on the Columbia River in the Warm Springs ceded area  
16 at the time of formation of the Oregon Territory, and these residents greeted Lewis and Clark and  
17 the pioneer ancestors in *Kiksht*; and

18 Whereas in Oregon today only three living elders are fluent in *Kiksht*, Margo Boise, Nelson  
19 Moses and Gladys Thompson, who range in age from 73 to 93 years, making *Kiksht* the most en-  
20 dangered language of Oregon; now, therefore,

### 21 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

22 That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, recognize the importance of  
23 *Kiksht* to the history of the Columbia Basin and the necessary connection it forms between the  
24 Wasco people and the Columbia River, and desire that the language should survive in perpetuity;  
25 and be it further

26 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Tribal Council of the Confederated  
27 Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

28

---

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.