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February 19, 2013

The Honorable Arnie Roblan
900 Court St NE, S-417,
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Senator Roblan:

This letter is to state my strong support for Senate Bill 18 and to thank you for considering this forward-looking bill in your Rural Communities & Economic Development Committee. SB 18 would allow the Fiscal Estimate Committee to consider fiscal impacts of ballot measures on Oregon Indian Tribes. State Treasurer Wheeler understands, as do I, that the nine tribes and confederations of tribes in our state are essential government partners of both the state and local governments. Most of the tribes are the second largest employers in their home county. As you well know, these counties are struggling to deliver even the most basic services in the current economy of rural Oregon. Despite the importance of the tribes' fiscal health to several rural counties, our Fiscal Estimate Committee cannot even consider the potential fiscal impacts of ballot measures under current law. SB 18 would bridge this gap in our laws, as many bills cementing the government-to-government relationship over the last dozen years have done.

Senate Bill 18 is yet another step on our road to the full government-to-government relationship between Oregon and the governments of First Oregonians contemplated by the Legislative Assembly when we passed Senate Bill 770 in 2001. Thank you again for your consideration of SB 18.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kate Brown
Oregon Secretary of State