



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES

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SENATE RURAL COMMITTEE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013 INFORMATIONAL MEETING

TESTIMONY OF KAREN QUIGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES

Dear Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Karen Quigley and I serve as the Executive Director of your Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The Commission serves as the State's information clearinghouse on Indian issues and is always available as a resource for advice, contacts and assistance to you, your committee, your staff and your constituents.

We maintain a website that provides details about the Commission as well as extensive information on Oregon's nationally acclaimed state-tribal government to government statute, (which you and your colleagues passed in the 2001 Session) including the annual reports of over 30 state agencies that work with tribal governments day in and day out. For the past dozen years the Commission has worked to support the concept behind the statute: Encourage opportunities to talk to each other; learn about each other; respect each other and figure out where it might be appropriate to partner with each other.

Thank you for providing this afternoon's setting in which you as elected officials have the opportunity to hear from the elected officials of these neighbor governments. These Tribal Leaders—the legislators of their respective governments—will briefly share with you their views on sovereignty and illustrate ways in which tribal governments as sovereigns have already played a part—and will continue to play a part— in strengthening the economic vitality of rural communities in Oregon.

Like all governments, tribal governments are responsible for the health, safety and well-being of their citizens. The distinctive piece, though, is that the citizens of these tribal governments are also Oregonians and U.S. citizens. I believe we can all see that

there is an extreme advantage to all Oregonians if the State, tribal and local government can maximize resources-- especially in distressed rural communities. Streamlining is obviously a key concept in government-- as is avoiding duplication and smart-sizing government services. Hopefully, the type of dialogue Oregon's state-tribal relations law is meant to encourage, will acknowledge the key role tribal governments play in the efforts to make Oregon strong economically, environmentally and as an area rich in culture that dates back over 12,000 years.

Tribal leaders today will just be able to touch on a few examples to tell you what's already happening.

If you haven't yet done so, I encourage you to visit the tribal governments and see their government buildings, their lands, their courts, their health clinics, emergency services and police departments, their housing projects, their educational programs and programs for their elders. You will see how much is shared by these tribal governments with their local community and just how many of the State of Oregon's resources go farther because these tribal governments are providing services. You will see that tribal governments are the major employers of tribal and community members in so many of Oregon's rural communities.

*Consider the Coquille—who offer their Police Department's office and office equipment to local police because it is closer to where the local law enforcement needs to be

*The Grand Ronde—who built a health clinic in a rural community that serves tribal and community members and saved the state or county from having to establish one

*The Cow Creek—who built a water treatment facility that enable the local community to plan development that otherwise could not occur without that infrastructure

*The Siletz—whose main structure in Lincoln City is for the tsunami evacuation site for the whole community

There are so many examples. I'd love for you to hear directly from the Tribal Leaders....

Thank you.