

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA MEADE, TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 351 BEFORE THE
SENATE RURAL COMMUNITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 19, 2013

Good afternoon, Chair Roblan and members of the Rural Communities & Economic Development Committee. My name is Brenda Meade and I am the Chairperson of the Tribal Council of the Coquille Indian Tribe. My testimony today is in favor of Senate Bill 351, to allow our Tribe to invest funds with the State Treasurer's Office to be deposited in the Oregon Short Term Fund.

Senate Bill 351 is the latest in a proud line of bills starting with Senate Bill 770 in 2001, which tells the people of Oregon that tribes are here to stay and are governmental partners with the State and local governments. Below is the list of government-to-government relationship building bills passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2001 and since:

Senate Bill 770 – Tribal-State government-to-government relationship bill; required annual Governor-Tribal Chairs summit and progress reports by all state agencies.

House Bill 2332 – Authorized Reservation enterprise zones for Tribes with enough population, unemployment on reservation, plus a state tax credit equal to the amount a business is taxed by a Tribe, 2001.

Senate Bill 180 – From SB 770, included Tribes as governments to receive ODOT Special Transportation Fund grants for elder and disabled transport, 2003.

Senate Bill 855, requires Dep't of Human Services to turn over Maternal Child Health dollars to Tribes and negotiate for other federal health dollars, 2003.

House Bill 2674 – Allows Tribes' libraries to obtain state library grants and assistance, 2005.

HB 2913 – Preserves Tribal Court authority to divide pensions of enterprise employees, responding to the federal Pension Protection Act of 2006, 2005.

Senate Bill 589 -- Extends and makes permanent property tax exemption for tribal lands in the trust acquisition process, 2009.

Senate Bill 726 -- Reservation Enterprise Zone (REZ) expansion to all nine tribes both on reservation and on trust land off-reservation and authorization of Tribal Partnership Enterprise Zones with cities, counties, and port districts, 2009.

House Bill 3680 –

- Extends sunset on the Reservation Enterprise Zone Tax Credit from 2014 to 2018 (imposed in 2009 by the Omnibus Tax Credit Sunset Act).
- Applies the REZ Tax Credit to the new reservation partnership enterprise zones.

SB 412 – Tribal Law Enforcement Act of 2011.

HB 4041 - Exempts tribal government property used for governmental purposes from property taxation regardless of location, 2012.

SB 351 will benefit our Tribe and our community. For us, it offers an opportunity to diversify our investment portfolio. For Coos County and cities and ports, it means more money in the Oregon Short Term Fund, with potential for more return to all government investors. The bill allows us to work with the State Treasurer to benefit the whole state. We believe the government-to-government cooperation fostered by this legislation will make all of our peoples' stronger.

I urge you to swiftly move Senate bill 351 to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to address you.