



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Justin Martin, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Date: March 14, 2013
Subject: SB 463 – Racial Impact Statements

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Close and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Justin Martin and I represent the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, where I am also a tribal member. I am also proud represent the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance as their Association Manager. **We are here today in support of Senate Bill 463.**

While this bill is not exclusive to tribal populations, we feel that it is another important step that highlights the unique relationship that Oregon has with our nine sovereign tribal governments. Through the landmark Senate Bill 770 and the very successful government-to-government process, we as Oregonians can all be proud of the strides that we have made throughout our state and within Indian Country to better serve our citizens. Senate Bill 463 is another opportunity to strengthen those efforts between tribes, the Criminal Justice Commission, the Department of Human Services, and the Oregon Legislature.

Research shows that without law enforcement, prevention, and treatment working in tandem the system for recovery and prevention fails, and when dealing with Native populations a fourth element of cultural identity is crucial. To achieve this we have to create partnerships in services and funding for all four elements, that will lead to the reduction of Minority overrepresentation in the Oregon Justice system.

Since this bill also allows legislators to ask for racial impact statements on legislation relating to human services, it creates an opportunity for agencies to work together with the Legislature in an effort to not only transition youth and adult offenders back into the community, but also to partner in prevention efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact. We feel strongly that Senate Bill 463 would help to elevate the importance of cultural identity in the recovery and prevention of Native people becoming involved in both the Justice and Human Services system.

Please support Senate Bill 463.