



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

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February 11, 2014

The Honorable John Kitzhaber
c/o Liani Reeves
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY: *Liani.Reeves@state.or.us*

Dear Governor Kitzhaber:

The Tribal Government of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians did not take a position for, or against, SB 215 (2013). At 11:00 this morning, we received a copy of a letter addressed to you by other federally-recognized tribes dated January 30, 2014. The letter addresses some of the issues raised by SB 215 and by successors to that bill in this Legislative Session. We concur with some of the sentiments expressed in that letter, but write separately to focus your attention on our primary concern.

Our primary concern stems from the supreme importance we place on protecting and nurturing the government-to-government process established, in large part, as a result of your leadership. As reported to us and recounted in the January 30, 2014 letter from the Tribes, Tribes that did take strong positions on SB 215 felt, and apparently still feel, that they were not adequately consulted. If correct, those reports are as troubling to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians as they are to the four Tribes that subscribed to the January 30, 2014 letter.

Tribes will sometimes actively urge conflicting policy choices on you and on the Legislative Assembly. On some issues, such as this one, some Tribes will be more heavily invested than others in the outcome of legislative deliberations. Sometimes Tribes will be unified in their positions.

The government-to-government principle should be consistently honored regardless of the permutations of the Tribes' positions on a given issue. We join the four Tribes subscribing to the January 30, 2014 letter in urging you to consult closely on a government-to-government basis

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with appropriate policy makers from the Tribes most significantly invested in SB 215 and its successors in the current session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert Garcia, Chairman of
The Confederated Tribes of Coos,
Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

cc: Dolores Pigsley, Tribal Chairman - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Gary Burke, Board of Trustee Chairman - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
Reservation
E. Austin Greene, Jr., Tribal Chairman - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Brenda Meade, Tribal Chairperson - Coquille Indian Tribe