



To: Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
From: Justin Martin, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Date: February 11, 2014
Subject: Please Support SB 1509

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are in full support of the policy within SB 1509.

Oregon is truly unique when it comes to the relationship between the state and the tribes. Together, we have done amazing things, from Governor Atiyeh and the creation of the Commission on Indian Services, to Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order 96-30, and then passage of SB 770, which put into statute the government-to-government relationship. We should all be proud as Oregonians of the work done in terms of government-to-government accomplishments. For example, we worked together to delete squaw language from Oregon geographic board names, we have dealt with illegally held archeological objects, and now we have state certified tribal police. Let's continue to work hard on the government-to-government process, whether it's at the state level, the federal level, or the local level, which is the case with SB 1509.

SB 1509 will retain the State Board of Education's rule on mascots, and also allow for an agreement to be made between a school and the nearest federally recognized tribe within Oregon. This will create the ability for the local tribal governing body to work with their local school district, effectively opening lines of communication with regard to mascots. This open line of communication is key to the success of the government-to-government process.

Lets turn the corner and use this issue as an opportunity to start educating our children as to who the 9 federally recognized tribal governments are here in Oregon; their relevance, how they make the fabric of Oregon so unique, and why we are all proud to be a part of state and tribal history.

Please support Senate Bill 1509.