



COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

3050 Tremont Street North Bend, OR 97459

Phone: (541) 756-0904 Fax: (541) 756-0847

www.coquilletribe.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 343

For the Coquille Indian Tribe by Chief Don Ivy, February 19, 2015

Good morning, Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Don Ivy and I am the Chief of the Coquille Indian Tribe. Our headquarters is in North Bend, as are several of our businesses, and our Tribe has a 7,000 acre reservation in Coos County, mostly timberland. I traveled from Coos Bay to urge your support for Senate Bill 343, to remove the temporary language in the Tribal Law Enforcement Act of 2011, Senate Bill 412.



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The Coquille Tribal Council thanks you for your leadership in hearing SB 343 early in the 2015 Session. Early action to pass this bill will prevent a major disruption in law enforcement in our region.

Ever since the beginning of 2013, the Coquille Tribe Police Department has worked with our law enforcement partners under SB 412. Prior to 2013, we worked cooperatively with the Coos County Sheriff within the framework of a cross-deputization agreement.

Our work together has made Coos County safer. Most of our police officers' responses were assists to outside agencies or mutual aid, nearly one for each day of 2013, for a total of 349. The Department had 145 cases in 2013. Trespass actions were 10 of the cases, as were property crimes such as theft, burglary, confiscated property, or found property. Traffic crimes, such as accidents or driving while suspended, were 6



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cases; 7 cases were drug offenses. The remaining 32 cases in the “other” category include criminal mischief, domestic disputes, harassment, or reports of suspicious activity. While we have not compiled all of the data for 2014, our police department gave 86 mutual aid assists to the Coos Bay Police Department alone. Coquille Tribe officers also issued 56 citations in Coos Bay in 2014.

A major reason for the close cooperation is our widely respected K-9 unit, often employed in search and rescue, and drug searches and arrests. The Coquille Police Department is the only agency in the county with a canine arm.

The Coquille Tribal Council urges you to act swiftly to pass SB 343 and prevent the unraveling of our successful tribal-local government collaboration for public safety on the South Coast.



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Thank you for your prompt consideration of the bill. For additional information, please contact Michael D. Mason at (503) 799-5225.