

Trant Lindsay

From: Se-ah-dom Edmo <seahdom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Davidson Ian; Trant Lindsay
Subject: Fwd: Urging Opposition HJM 15

Mr. Davidson;
Below is my written testimony for consideration on HJM 15.

Kind Regards,
Se-ah-dom Edmo

Chair Clem, Vice-Chair Helm, and Vice-Chair Post,

I am a Celilo Village descendent. My father grew up there and was witness to its inundation in 1957. My grandmother, Rachel Cook of the Nez Perce Tribe lived there, with her husband, Edward Edmo Sr. of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, her mother before her, Priscilla Corbett, of the Nez Perce Tribe and her husband, Joseph Cook of the Yakama Nation and so on for generations back.

I am writing today to urge your no vote on HJM 15 and to call into question any motivation or movement to temporarily lower the Dalles Dam to reveal the falls. If this indeed is the result of lawmakers listening to a constituent group calling themselves the "Friends" of Celilo - I strongly urge you to consult the 4 treaty tribes of the Lower Columbia River, CRITFC and the Celilo-Wyam Board to hear about their interactions with this group.

The group has been asked several times by Elders from and descendants of Celilo Village to connect with lineal chiefs of the Columbia, with residents of the Village and with descendants of the Village to seek permission and direction for the group "Friends of Celilo". To my knowledge, they have not done that. They therefore, do not have the authority to use our name to push their political agenda. **They do not have a working relationship with the folks who would be directly impacted by the potential trauma that would be caused by temporarily uncovering the falls and are using our name and history to gain political advantage by pulling at the heart strings of the general public. It's simply exploiting our name and history.**

By flooding the rhetorical space these "Friends" are misleading and misrepresenting us as well as misguiding the larger body politic. Their continued use of our name and work they say is being done on our behalf only reinforces systems that continually undermine the principles, goals actual realization of actual Tribal Sovereignty.

Of course, according to mainstream law and the State of Oregon, an organization and say whatever they want about their mission and what they do. But, in Indian Country, those are not the rules or traditional custom law that we follow.

Uncovering Celilo would be like digging up the grave of a relative - just so well meaning non-native progressives can feel good about themselves and the work they are doing. What we really need is to work to empower the people who suffer generational trauma because of environmental racism. HJM 15 is misguided, I urge you to vote NO!

Se-ah-dom Edmo

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