

**Confederated Tribes *of the*
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees



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May 4, 2015

The Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: CTUIR Support for SB 259 A

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Committee:

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) would like to express our support for Oregon Senate Bill 259. The CTUIR has long participated in the environmental review process of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council site certificate applications and have been unable to be reimbursed for our work protecting cultural and natural resources important to the CTUIR. These projects have the potential to impact resources significant to the tribes, cities, counties and the state but up to this point only the state and non-tribal governments could receive reimbursement.

The CTUIR inquired two years ago seeking a reimbursement similar to what the state, cities and counties receive. We were told the State would need to look into it and were working with their attorneys to address the matter. The CTUIR is pleased this bill was introduced and supports the language for Tribes to be reimbursed for the review of Oregon Energy Facility Site Council site certificate applications.

Respectfully,

Gary Burke, Chairman
Board of Trustees