



Legislative Commission on Indian Services

Oregon State Capitol
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<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1528 A

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

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Karen M. Quigley
LCIS Executive Director

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, good afternoon. For the record my name is Karen Quigley and I serve as the Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, a fourteen member advisory commission to the Executive and Legislative Branch. Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about SB 1528 A.

From my vantage point of having served as Executive Director for over 20 years of the Commission's 40 year existence, I would like you to know this Legislative Commission has been an amazing tool for the State of Oregon. Compared to other states, and in large part because of the Commission, Oregon has benefitted by having an-going high-level place for discussion among the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon and the State on all sorts of issues—cultural and natural resources, education, health, public safety and economic development.

While the original Commission statute in 1975 listed the Commission's purpose as improving services to Indians, this bill makes explicit an additional purpose critical to the Commission's effectiveness: to promote communication and relations between the tribal governments and the State.

It is a powerful statement of commitment to have four legislators serve on the Commission, including Representatives McKeown and Stark.

Tribal governments have also demonstrated their strong support: their governmental Leaders represent their respective sovereign nations on the Commission—notwithstanding all their other tribal governmental duties.

SB 1528 A serves to acknowledge and respect those other roles and responsibilities of these tribally elected officials. This bill addresses the status of Tribal Leaders on the Commission when they may be together at meetings,

events and ceremonies-- or if they are involved together in other activities as Tribal members and Tribal Leaders including discussions of issues concerning Indians and tribal governments-- outside of meetings of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. SB 1528 A also clarifies that it is the governing body of each tribal government, using their own procedures to nominate their representative to be jointly appointed by the Speaker and Senate President.

To be clear--Meetings of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services like the one this Thursday have always been and will remain open to the public. Tribal Government Day and other events sponsored by LCIS here at the Capitol are open to the public.

SB 1528 A make No Changes for Members of the Legislative Assembly who serve on the Commission nor the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director.

Thank you for your consideration of the merits of SB 1528 A.