



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

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May 19, 2017

Sent via Electronic Mail

Subcommittee on Natural Resources—Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SUPPORT FOR SECTIONS 12-14 OF SB 5530 – PORTLAND HARBOR MONITORING FUNDS

Dear Members of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I write on behalf of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Legislative Committee to offer testimony in support of Sections 12-14 of SB 5530 (hereafter “SB 5530”). The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Yakama Nation”) is a sovereign, federally recognized Native Nation with inherent sovereign and Treaty-reserved rights in and around the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and affected areas downstream. The Yakama Nation’s primary objective for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is to ensure that the environmental cleanup returns Portland Harbor and all affected areas downstream into a safe environment for the Yakama Nation to exercise its Treaty-reserved rights. Within that broad objective, the Yakama Nation wants to ensure that the Willamette and Columbia Rivers support and sustain clean, healthy, and safe fish for Yakama Members and the broader community.

The Yakama Nation supports this Bill because it represents a positive step towards the restoration and recovery of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Specifically, SB 5530 facilitates a determination of baseline contamination levels in the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, which will assist in the development of design specifications for remediation of the contamination at Portland Harbor. Having current and accurate information on the baseline contamination levels throughout the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is absolutely essential to designing a cleanup that will protect the Yakama Nation’s rights and interests in and around the Site. If this Bill is passed, we will be one step closer a full and complete restoration of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and affected areas downstream.

Moving forward, the Yakama Nation wants to encourage the State to continue its efforts—and for responsible parties to join such efforts—to begin sampling the river to inform the remedial design phase of the cleanup, and ultimately begin actual cleanup of the river. Further, we need the State of Oregon to set high standards for baseline sampling to inform remedial design, and measure cleanup performance as a whole including ongoing impacts to both residential and migratory fish (especially lamprey). This should include fish tissue monitoring to understand and protect Yakama Members and surrounding communities.



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I appreciate the opportunity to testify today. Thank you.

Respectfully,

ASA WASHINES, CHAIRMAN  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
YAKAMA NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

CC: Joint Committee on Ways and Means [jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)  
Co-Chair Fred Girod [Sen.FredGirod@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.FredGirod@state.or.us)  
Co-Chair Paul Holvey [Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov)  
Julie Jensen [Julie.Jensen@state.or.us](mailto:Julie.Jensen@state.or.us)