



## The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

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May 22, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Capitol Construction  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5530

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capitol Construction:

Senate Bill 5530 provides \$10 million for financial assistance, at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, to conduct baseline sampling to determine levels of contamination and develop design specifications for the remediation of contamination in the Portland Harbor.

The Confederation of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon is descended from over 27 tribes and bands. Since time immemorial, the area of Portland Harbor has been inhabited and used by indigenous Chinookan peoples. These Chinookan tribes and bands (known as the Multnomah, Clackamas, and Cascades bands of Chinook) were signers of the ratified Willamette Valley Treaty of January 22, 1855, which ceded the entire Willamette River Basin to the U.S. in exchange for certain rights and benefits in their traditional homelands. Subsequently all three bands of these Chinookan people were removed to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation in the western Willamette River Basin, and became the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Despite removal from our homelands to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, our Tribe has maintained strong unbroken connections to our traditional use sites and sacred places in our treaty homelands. This includes Willamette Falls and other sites on the lower Willamette River for the purposes of fishing, gathering, and ceremonial practices. Grand Ronde's traditional use of the lower Willamette River continues to this day with practices including but not limited to Pacific lamprey harvesting and an annual First Salmon ceremony at Willamette Falls.

The water, land, air, fish, wildlife, and plant communities are all important treaty resources of the Tribe. The Tribe has made it a priority to restore habitat conditions for significant resources throughout its ceded lands. As the health and well-being of these resources is connected to the health and well-being of Tribal people, the health of the lower Willamette River is of critical importance to Grand Ronde.

Grand Ronde's first priority in terms of the Portland Harbor cleanup is the health and safety of all of its Tribal members. It is unacceptable to the Tribe that Tribal members are at increased risk of harmful effects from contaminants when they eat traditional foods. The end result of the Portland Harbor cleanup should be that the lower Willamette River supports Tribal cultural resources, and that Tribal members can use and consume those resources at traditional levels without risk of ill effects from exposure to Portland Harbor contamination. Beginning work on the remedy sooner rather than later will result in more protection of human health and the environment, including Tribal members and Tribal cultural resources. As a consulting sovereign nation and a Trustee of natural resources at Portland Harbor, Grand Ronde has continued to engage with the development of the monitoring plan for the cleanup. Therefore, Grand Ronde supports the State's efforts to provide financial assistance for remedial design in the Portland Harbor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Greene', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Greene  
Tribal Attorney