



**Testimony of Rosenda Shippentower, Board of Trustees
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
SB 145**

February 9, 2017

Chairman Hass and members of the committee, my name is Rosenda Shippentower and I am an elected official of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – one of two treaty tribes in the State of Oregon. I am the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. Today I am joined by our Tax Administrator Bruce Zimmerman who is the Enterprise Zone Manager for the CTUIR Reservation Enterprise Zone.

Our Tribe strongly supports SB 145, which would repeal the sunset of the reservation tax credit. The Reservation Enterprise Zone designation and tax credit provision are essential for marketing commercial and industrial land for economic development. And ultimately, the designation is a vehicle for creating jobs in rural Oregon.

A quick look back into history shows that the State of Oregon established the Reservation Enterprise Zone in 2001. Shortly after it was established, CTUIR applied and was designated as the first Reservation Enterprise Zone in the state.

The timing was excellent because our Tribal leadership had started planning a business park the year before and designated a 700 acre parcel of land for commercial and industrial development. Around that time, we also purchased an old truck stop just off Interstate 84.

From 2002 to 2007, we invested in infrastructure improvements to establish the Coyote Business Park six miles east of Pendleton. In 2007, the first business to locate and take advantage of the Enterprise Zone was Cayuse Technologies. Today, Cayuse continues to thrive and is surrounded by neighboring businesses including a new truck and travel plaza, a truck repair shop, DaVita Dialysis Center, the U.S. Forest Service, a yoga studio and a number of restaurants.

When we started, there were 30 people working at the truck stop. And now, with the help of our Reservation Enterprise Zone designation, the Business Park is home to businesses with over 450 employees. The Tribe has invested nearly \$37 million in infrastructure development, land acquisition and buildings in this area.

In addition to the Business Park, we have established the Wanapa Industrial Park at the Port of Umatilla, 40 miles northwest of Pendleton on the Columbia River. With your help, we hope to grow more jobs there as well.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a “do pass” recommendation to your colleagues on the floor of the Senate.