



March 18, 2021

Senate Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

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RE: SCR 17 before the 2021 Oregon legislature

Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ted Labbe and I am Executive Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute. I am writing in support of SCR 17 to establish an environmental justice framework for Oregon.

I am a fifth-generation Oregonian. My family and fortunes have benefited greatly from Oregon's development as a State. In a former job, I worked for an Indian Tribe in Washington State helping them with natural resources management.

I also read history, and my heart aches over the ugly history of mistreatment by Whites of Oregon's Tribes. War, removal, termination, and even restoration have taken their toll on Oregon Tribes. In my lifetime, the Siletz Tribe was forced to cede additional Treaty rights in order to get their federal recognition restored. This concession was forced on them not by Republican's Hatfield or Packwood, but by a so-called liberal Democrat, Les Aucoin – who acted at the behest of sportfishing and hunting interests to limit the Tribe's Treaty-protected fishing and hunting rights.¹

This happened in 1980 when I was 11 years old. I caught my first wild steelhead when I was nine years old, and this formidable event shaped who I am today. I went on to pursue a career in conservation. In no small way, I have benefitted from this history of colonization and abuse.

This abuse, this injustice is ongoing. It isn't something that happened in the past. We need a new environmental justice framework for Oregon that enables groups that have been marginalized to more actively participate in decision-making going forward. Now is the time to *begin* to redress these errors of the past. Please support SCR 17. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Labbe
503-758-9562

¹ Wilkinson, Charles. 2010. *The People are Dancing Again: The History of the Siletz Tribe of Western Oregon*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Pages 329-31.