



The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council

February 4, 2022

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senator Bill Kennemer, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

RE: SB 1501 Support

Dear Chair Golden and Vice-Chair Kennemer,

On behalf of the Klamath Tribes, I offer these brief comments in support of SB 1501. I first want to note that we share the concerns about the lack of consultation with Oregon's tribes that were expressed by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians in their testimony on the bill. We have been generally disappointed with the lack of consultation recently concerning issues of great import to Oregon's tribes.

That being said, the accord that this legislation represents is significant and important. The substance of SB 1501 will be very helpful in supporting the habitat restoration efforts that the Klamath Tribes have been leading in the upper Klamath Basin for many years. We believe the substantive aspects of the bill will build on and strengthen those efforts.

The Klamath Tribes do want to see some amendments to Section 50 of the bill, which is the tribal-specific provisions. While there is a -1 amendment circulating, the draft that we have reviewed still requires some important clarifications regarding the status of tribal land ownership, definitions of tribes and tribal entities, and related matters. We are working with other Oregon tribes in an effort to present a jointly-agreed upon revision to that -1 amendment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information from the Klamath Tribes.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Gentry, Chairman
The Klamath Tribes

501 Chiloquin Blvd. – P.O. Box 436 – Chiloquin, Oregon 97624
(541) 783-2219

