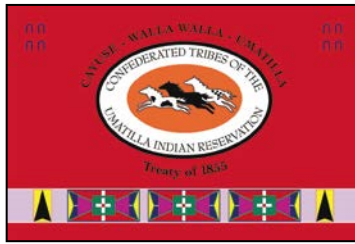


**Confederated Tribes *of the*
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees & General Council



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Testimony of Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
SB 1567
February 7, 2022

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) supports SB 1567 which would, among other things, authorize rulemaking to address the substantial risks posed by above-ground storage of oil during seismic events. The vast majority of Oregon's liquid fuel is stored adjacent to the Willamette River a short distance from the Columbia River. A Cascadia-level event would cause devastating effects to Portland, but so too could a less-substantial earthquake on above-ground liquid oil storage tanks in the Portland Metro area.

The CTUIR retains certain rights that preexisted the United States and were recognized in our Treaty of 1855, 12 Stat. 945. Among those rights is the right to fish at all usual and accustomed areas. The potential for catastrophic release of the quantities of oil stored in Portland requires regulatory oversight that does not currently exist. SB 1567 will address this significant shortcoming under the law. The measures provided for are as straightforward as they are necessary: requiring seismic vulnerability assessments and implementation of measures to mitigate for risks identified in the vulnerability assessments.

In the event there is a catastrophic oil spill in the lower Willamette, the spill would immediately flow into the Columbia River and ultimately enter the estuary, dramatically impacting fish populations. Such a spill could directly impact ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fishing for generations. Tribal members are particularly vulnerable to environmental catastrophes such as this because their livelihoods often depend on the river, its health, and their access to it. Tribal members have lived along the river since time immemorial and still depend on the river for their physical and cultural survival.

SB 1567 is a regulatory necessity that should have been adopted decades ago.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.