

Submitter: Reina Estimo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

I just wanted to emphasize that tribes be counted separately as their own entities when it comes to funding opportunities. Tribes are sovereign nations and we have rights to natural resources that extend beyond the borders of our reservation that are protected by our treaties. In almost every aspect of funding whether it's for health, education, or environmental dollars, state, city & county entities submit for money and cite the tribes as a partner without consulting tribes whatsoever. Tribal consultation practices need to be defined which includes authorization from tribal council when things like this happen. Our population on the reservation are experiencing issues more severe than the general state and federal populations with much less resources. One example is our water crisis here on the Warm Springs reservation. We have had some federal support but not much as far as state or county support. Our relationship with the central Oregon community is NOT good. I hate it when central Oregon news outlets post ANY news about Warm Springs because it just subjects our people to hate and discrimination. It doesn't matter what kind of news it is. The same goes with interactions our people have in central Oregon communities. Central Oregon and the state have a lot to learn about working with Tribes and I am in hope that these Community Resilience Hubs can assist in repairing those relationships and properly define tribal consultation processes around these issues. I read so many groups that talk about loving this land, country and state. But I still believe nobody has a greater love for our lands and resources like the original stewards of these lands and we are the most underrepresented voices during these processes.