



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as public comment from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon re: Support for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant.

The implementation of the Oregon Tribal Student grant during the 2022-2023 academic year has served to benefit many Tribal students pursuing postsecondary education. While the ripple effect of its positive impact is yet to be fully realized, we can see that Tribal member students are thriving as direct result of this grant.

The Siletz Tribe has always prioritized Education amongst its members, knowing that a good education is vital to the success and longevity of our membership. Associate, bachelors and graduate degrees are essential for living wage jobs, necessary to break the cycle of poverty. We now see the Oregon Tribal Student grant as a partner in this journey, and reinforces Oregon's commitment to Tribal Students.

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is the first aid that truly reflects the importance of lifting Oregon Tribal member students up to that of their non-native counterparts. As the first and rightful stewards of Oregon, our students deserve to reap the benefits of Oregon based learning institutions and to be awarded enough aid to successfully complete their degree program. This is now made possible with the Oregon Tribal Student Grant.

It is our recommendation that the Oregon Tribal Student Grant be funded at the full budgeted amount of \$40.25 Million and remain a commitment to Oregon Tribal Students. It is the ask of the Siletz Tribe that the OTSG be base funded in the future, and that the State of Oregon in partnership with Tribes, continue working together for the betterment and education of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Sincerely,

Delores Pigsley
Tribal Chairman