



**NCFS**  
NIXYÁAWII COMMUNITY  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Testimony Before the  
Oregon State House Committee on Revenue for  
HB 3431 to Fund Permanent Revenue Stream for the  
Economic Equity Investment Program  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Good morning, Revenue Committee leadership and staff.

My name is Dave Tovey and I serve as Executive Director for the Nixyáawii Community Financial Services (NCFS), a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), serving the Umatilla Indian Reservation. NCFS is a relatively new Native CDFI formed in early 2020 and received U.S. Department of Treasury's CDFI certification in December of 2021. We offer services to our 3 target markets—Tribal members, Tribal entity employees, and Reservation residents and their respective families—with small business, homeownership, and loans.

I am a Umatilla Tribal member of Cayuse and Joseph Band Nez Perce heritage. I have served in top executive roles with my Tribes (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla), the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, and Cayuse Technologies, as well as serving as president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC), based in Portland and secretary/treasurer of the Indian Land Capital Company. I was awarded the Economic Development Leader of the Year for the State of Oregon by former Governor Kitzhaber in 2001.

I am addressing the Oregon House Committee on Revenue to urge consideration of House Bill 3451 to provide a permanent revenue stream from the Oregon Marijuana Account to fund the Economic Equity Investment Program. Recently, our organization was delighted to learn that we were successful in being among the 37 grant awardees with other organizations serving in communities at the bottom of the wealth gap.

Our project is to provide small grants and forgivable loans to our small business clients, contracted business services, staff subsidies, and purchase of a food trailer for our planned Food Truck Park. These investments are crucial for our non-profit organization that is based in a rural community, on an Indian Reservation, and with a private sector still in its infancy.

On behalf of the Nixyáawii Community Financial Services board of directors and staff, we are grateful to the Oregon Legislature for creating this program so needed at the foundation of our economy. We would be happy to provide more information or assistance as needed.