

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

I live at Ti'lomikh Falls, a whitewater site proposed by Governor Brown for the 2028 Olympics and also a site being proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I am the president of The Gold Hill Whitewater Center and private landowner at Ti'lomikh Falls. Please pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners or the whitewater park and the Olympic dream is doomed. Not acting gets worse if you look at the real history here at Ti'lomikh Falls, a story that is just emerging for the UNESCO site.

The Takelma had no written language. They told stories, of course. But deep wisdom was taught through ceremony, and it took me twenty years to become indigenous enough to translate the wisdom of the ceremonies in my own backyard on the Rogue River.

The Tobacco Ceremony carries our words to the Creator, a pledge to speak the truth. The tobacco pipe is a symbol that

We hold these truths to be self-evident. The Salmon Ceremony, in which the first salmon is shared so no one goes hungry, recognizes that **all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable Rights, that among these are the Right to Life.** The Vision Quest Ceremony allows everyone to find their own story, what we call **Liberty.** And the Potlatch Ceremony gives away wealth, insuring **The Pursuit of Happiness** for all.

These liability lawsuits are another assault on our basic freedom and our interdependence.

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Editor in Chief, *Spirituality & Health*
United States Olympic Team, 1980
Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement, 1980