



Representative Hoa Nguyen
Oregon House District 48

HB 3529 - QUARTERLY TRAININGS ON TRIBES AND TRIBAL RELATIONS

3/19 House Committee on Rules

Thank you, Chair, vice chair and members of the committee. I am State Representative Hoa Nguyen, and I represent House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3529, which would require the Executive Officer of the Commission on Indian Services to provide quarterly trainings on tribes on tribal relations, and requires all members of the legislative assembly and all legislative staff to attend a training at least once a year.

Oregon is home to around 186,000 Native Americans, equalling about 4% of its population, as well as 9 federally-recognized tribes governments.

Requiring that legislators and staff receive training on tribal relations acknowledges the enormous historical injustices committed against the native tribes and individuals in Oregon, and ensures that legislators have the knowledge to make decisions that will significantly impact them.

These trainings would cover topics including tribal sovereignty, relations between tribes and other groups, the significance of tribal customs, best practices for consulting with tribes when crafting legislation affecting tribes and tribal rights.

Learning about these key topics would make myself, my fellow legislators, and all of our legislative staff members better at our jobs, and more capable of addressing the needs of ALL Oregonians.

I urge your support to pass HB 3529 in support of more knowledgeable legislators making better-informed decisions regarding Oregon's Native American Tribes.