

Emma M. Smith
Ways & Means
Comment Session

Friday, April 4, 2025

First of all, Welcome to Warm Springs.

I'd like to thank you for allowing our input into the immense job duty that you must fulfill.

I would like to start by stating that the State of Oregon, and its Lottery Dollars should create an obligation of allocating a certain percentage of these funds to the federally recognized Tribes of Oregon on a yearly basis. If this doesn't tie into the information you desire, then you may bring it to the table that funnels Oregon monies.

Second, priority wise, would be for the whole State of Oregon to have monies for the accountability of keeping our National Scenic Gorge of the Columbia River orderly, meaning to quit allowing so much business economic developments to happen in this area - its beginning not to be such a National Scenic Area. Over development is not included in the definition of National Scenic Area. Although the Gorge Commission is in creation; seems as if they are not doing the task of their duties.

Third, would be enforcement of the Clean Water Act - funding honorable attorneys to begin taking corporations/businesses to court, along with the 'watch dogs' that are not enforcing the responsibility of the Clean Water Act; especially in the Willamette River. Yearly the Willamette River is grimier; usually by the same occurrences and Oregon is not steadily doing its job to safeguard this very important Oregon natural resource. Oregon Courts and Watch Dogs need to enforce more progressively.

Just a suggestion - these monies; and working as a State-Wide Reform; an Alcohol & Drug Penal Complex is extremely needed, and to be developed. Why? Because what the State has been doing, has not had much success for the money loss to this major problem. The Complex should consist of a 2-year sentence, mandatory, and if a person doesn't want to rehab in its programs; let them sit in their cell; either way, 2-years clean & sober might just jolt their mind to better their life style. I did email this suggestion to Governor Kotex, and suggested that the Madras Deer Ridge Correctional Facility would be the perfect place for this suggestion. I say, you 'baby pat' these sorts of problems way too much.

Thank you for your time, and I hope this opens eyes to a wider, perspective of keeping Oregon a desirable place to visit.