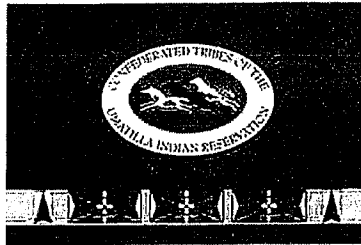


**Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees & General Council



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March 11, 2013

The Honorable Lee Beyer, Chairman
Senate Business & Transportation Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Bruce Starr, Vice-Chair
Senate Business & Transportation Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 319, Extend Tax Credit for Contributions to Oregon Cultural Trust

Dear Chairman Beyer, Vice-Chair Starr and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) I am writing to convey our support for SB 319. Just over a dozen years ago, the Oregon Cultural Trust was brought to life by a small committee convened by Governor Kitzhaber to make a bold and innovative plan to get our State out of the basement in public funding for culture. Oregon was very near the bottom of the list in the United States when the Trust began. Roberta Conner, Director of our Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, served on the advisory body that envisioned how a Cultural Trust could further enhance the status of and support for culture in Oregon.

The plan, as envisioned, was a three pronged approach to garner funds for a Cultural Trust entity that would set Oregon apart and ensure that the quality of life in our State would embrace and nurture the natural beauty and cultural richness that has always been our hallmark.

The Cultural Trust license plate, the tax credit, and the sale of public lands were identified to jump start and sustain the entity. The license plate, which has been well-subscribed to by Oregonians, engages Oregonians in support of culture where they may least expect it—at the DMV. The tax credit incentivizes citizen donations to Oregon's cultural non-profits whereby an equal donation to the Trust earns them an equivalent tax credit. The local non-profit, like our own Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, benefits along with the Cultural Trust and all Oregonians. The plan for the sale of public lands did not pan out as anticipated, as the State's fiscal crisis found a more imperative need for those identified revenues. The license plates and the tax credits have driven the Trust to its success thus far.

Three funding streams from the Trust sponsor an amazing array of cultural education, infrastructure, and programming across the state. The CTUIR, like the other eight Oregon tribes and all 36 counties, appreciate the local Cultural Coalition re-grant funds which make everything from music and dance lessons to master-apprenticeship relationships a reality for those who could otherwise not afford them. The Development grants have helped with significant cultural stabilization of collections, facilities and resources. The Statewide awards to institutions like the Oregon Heritage Commission and the Oregon Historical Society permit small, remote, and poorly funded historical efforts to flourish.


CTUIR Letter in Support of SB 319, Oregon Cultural Trust

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Without the Oregon Cultural Trust, the State famous for its public beaches, the bottle bill, and land use planning par excellence would be certain to remain on the bottom rung of the ladder in its public support for culture. Please ensure that the forward momentum of the Trust is sustained and secure for the future. We urge your favorable consideration to extend the sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Les Minthorn".

Les Minthorn, Chairman
Board of Trustees