



FROM THE  
DESK OF:  
*Sherrie Sprenger*  
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**Please Support SB 1509A**

As a Tribe we have made a commitment to dedicate ourselves to building positive government-to-government relationships across all levels of government. We are very proud of the strides we have made over the years, and are equally proud of the State of Oregon and their efforts to build and maintain these relationships. From the work of Governor Victor Atiyeh, various legislative assemblies, the passage of Senate Bill 770, and the current Kitzhaber administration, tribes and the state have worked hard to solidify these relationships. Our strong government-to-government relationships benefit citizens in communities throughout Oregon, and bring with them opportunities to increase awareness of Oregon's unique and diverse sovereign tribal governments.

In working cooperatively with the Governor, we have arrived at language that embodies the government-to-government spirit, is inclusive of both the tribes and the state, and guarantees a continued relationship of communication and openness. Here are the differences between SB1509 and SB215 that was passed in 2013.

- With this compromise language, the 9 federally recognized tribes are to be consulted during the Board of Education process for rules to be adopted. (Essentially we will be going through the same process as when the original ban was established, but this time the legislature is mandating consultation.)
- The rule that will be worked out ahead of time must include acceptable uses of the mascot, and prescribe the requirements for approval. (This will most likely be names "significant to" tribes, and acceptable imagery.)
- Once the rule is in place, the Board of Education must approve the agreement between a tribe and a school district if it meets the established criteria.

We hope that today you will support this common sense approach to the issue. Who should be making decisions about what is and what is not culturally significant to tribes in Oregon? Obviously, we think it should be the tribes themselves, and ask for your trust and faith that we will make the proper decisions. SB 1509 is a collaborative approach that allows tribes and the state to move forward for the collective benefit of our tribal communities, our local communities, and our state as a whole.

It is time to look to the future and use this issue as an opportunity to start educating our children as to who the nine federally recognized tribal governments are here in Oregon; their relevance, how they make the fabric of Oregon so unique, and why we are all proud to be a part of such a unique state-tribal history.

**Please support Senate Bill 1509A**