

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeidah DeZurney. I am 21 years old and an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and President of the Siletz Tribal Youth Council. The Youth Council undertakes projects to protect our traditional lands from being destroyed by pollution and toxic waste. I'm also Vice President of Native & Indigenous Student Union at Willamette University, where I'm a junior.

I grew up in rural Oregon, on land that was the traditional home of the Kalapuya Indians. Today it's a small town called Brownsville. The only opportunities for a lot of people growing up where I did is to work in logging or farming. Yet those jobs are becoming harder to depend on -- both because of global economic pressures and also the climate crisis. If we continue to see warming, drought, and wildfires get worse and worse, families won't be able to survive there.

What gives me some hope is the solution to the climate crisis. A clean energy transition means a lot of opportunities for well-paying jobs for people who work in construction, engineering, electricity, and more. That is what HB 4167 is about. It's job training, fixing up buildings and homes to use energy more efficiently to lower people's bills, which will help families, and cut down on climate pollution.

Indigenous communities are on the frontlines of climate change in Oregon. My people have self-sustained by traditional foods our entire history. Now, because of climate change and pollution, the fish in our Siletz River are dying and their numbers decline every year. Our traditional way of life and culture are endangered. Every day you delay action, you deny my generation and our communities a livable future. We hope you won't let us down.

Thank you,

Jeidah DeZurney, 21
Siletz Tribal Youth Council President