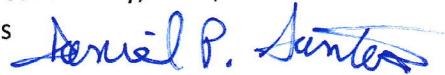


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DATE: January 26, 2023

TO: Representative Julie Fahey, Chair, Rules Committee, Oregon House of Representatives
FROM: Daniel P. Santos
SUBJECT: HB 2112



Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee – As background, I have had the privilege of serving four Oregon governors from 1987 to 2011, as an associate dean at Willamette College of Law, and twice as an interim director at the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS). I am proud to have worked on tribal matters from the beginning of tribal gaming in Oregon, to formally establishing Government-To-Government (GTG) relations in 1996 between the State and Oregon Tribes through Executive Order 96-30. These GTG relations were codified in 2001 with SB 770. For over 25 years, the State has benefitted from the resulting increased communication with Tribal Governments about state and tribal interests.

In 2017, I was honored to be asked to Co-Chair with Brenda Meade, Chairman of the Coquille Tribe, the Governor's Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items established through Executive Order No. 17-12. It is with this background that I write in support of HB 2112.

Throughout time, Oregon's Tribes have desired to maintain as much as possible of their historical cultural items. Much too often, these have been tragically destroyed, lost, not identified, or stored. As part of the GTG relations, tribes and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), have long had an interest in obtaining information relating to cultural items currently held in storage or on display at Oregon state agencies, state universities, colleges, and other public entities.

The Task Force has made history by establishing processes to create definitions of cultural items, train State agencies on how best to survey such items, and how to make tribes and the public aware of such items, as well as how to provide access to these materials. Oregon was the first in the Nation to report on such a survey of tribal cultural items in 2019. In 2020, agencies began the annual process of updating their surveys. The Task Force also met with Oregon's public universities and community colleges in March 2020 as part of the next phase of survey work. These higher education colleagues were interested and willing to start their process, but as we know COVID then took over everyone's focus.

During the work of the Task Force, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan and the Archives Division have played a tremendous role in helping agencies with identifying, cataloguing, and establishing access procedures for tribal cultural items. The Task Force looks forward to continuing its work with the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, SOS, LCIS, and the Tribes. That is why I write in support of HB 2112 as it helps codify the importance of government entities' consideration of tribal cultural value when appraising records for retention value. I appreciate the Secretary of State and Archives Division advancing this important matter and ask for Rules Committee's support of HB 2112.