



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, members of the committee.

For the record, I am Annessa Hartman, State Representative for House District 40, representing Gladstone, Oregon City, and unincorporated Clackamas county. I also belong to the Haudenosaunee people, Cayuga Nation, commonly known as the Six Nations of Iroquois. District 40 includes the ancestral homelands of the Clackamas, Chinook Bands, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, Tualatin, Tumwater, Wasco, and many other tribes that resided and traded the land that we will never be able to name.

We are unable to name all Nations that lived on and visited our district in large part because of this nation's systematic and forcible removal of Indigenous peoples, coupled with the destruction of Indigenous cultural heritage, which continued well into the 21st century.

Thankfully, Governor Brown convened the Tribal Cultural Items Task Force in 2017 to increase communication between tribes and the state government. The Task Force solicited information from state agencies and other public institutions regarding items in their possession associated with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

As part of this effort, the State Archives now requires the agency's Tribal Liaison to sign off before **any** records destruction at the Oregon State Records Center. This created a cascading effect throughout agencies, many of whom previously did not have a designated tribal liaison.

In alignment with Secretary Fagan and Deputy Secretary Myers' full support to create strong and respectful relationships with each Tribal Government, they looked for a way to implement lasting change that will carry on the work of the Task Force.

An example of this lasting change being that while many of Oregon's state agencies used to destroy archaeological records after seven years without considering whether the records held cultural significance to Oregon's tribes. Input from tribes has led the Department of State Lands, ODFW, ODOT, and the Department of Agriculture to retain these records permanently.

HB 2112 codifies these efforts and ensures they will continue past the life of the Tribal Cultural Items Task Force by adding "tribal cultural value" to the list of values used by our agencies to appraise public records. Considering the great need to include Tribal voices in conversations around Indigenous cultural heritage, I hope you will join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time.

