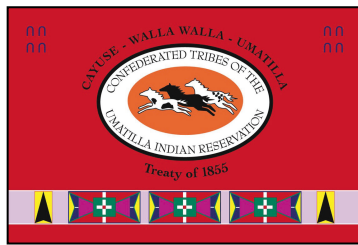


**Confederated Tribes *of the*
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees



46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

**Testimony of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans
HB 3173
February 14, 2023**

Good afternoon Chair Grayber and members of the committee, my name is Corinne Sams and I am a member of the Board of Trustees, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. I appreciate this opportunity to provide our support for HB 3173.

As state legislators, you know that sometimes legislative ideas are sent to a task force to die. But in this case, a task force is being recommended to build on an Oregon success. Oregon was the first state to codify the government-to-government relationship between the State and Tribes. It was passed in 2001 as SB 770 – which built on Executive Order No. EO -96-30 established five years prior.

Today, more than 20 years later, you have an opportunity to pass HB 3173 which will bring together a taskforce consisting of appropriate stakeholders to identify how state agencies should best engage in tribal consultations. This will help ensure uniformity and clarity to everyone involved. The task force will then report its findings and make appropriate recommendations to Legislative Assembly for future legislation.

Consultation is vital to understand each other's rights and interests, and above all else, demonstrate mutual respect for each other. It is through consultation that state agencies may learn what each Tribe's rights and interests are and likewise, Tribal governments gain valuable information about agency efforts.

We ask that the committee support HB 3173 to establish a task force where we can work together to insure that the spirit of consultation is upheld for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.