



Testimony of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Senate Labor and Business Committee
HB 2764
March 14, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Taylor and members of the committee. My name is Corinne Sams. I am an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

The tribe urges you to support HB 2764 that will ultimately create an Endangered Missing Person Alert System as a component of the missing children and adults clearinghouse similar to the AMBER Alert system. While this bill relates to endangered persons generally, it is broad enough to address MMIW/P cases.

In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 2625, which directed the Oregon State Police to conduct a study focused on the reporting, investigation, and response to incidents involving Missing and Murdered Native American Women. A multi-disciplinary Work Group was established that included two representatives from the CTUIR.

Among the recommendations of the Work Group was to: develop collaborative efforts and partnership to work across jurisdictions, strengthen partnerships between law enforcement and tribal communities, and to provide education for Oregon's law enforcement officers covering MMIW issues.

HB 2764 aligns with these recommendations. The creation of an alert system that tribes and state law enforcement agencies can use to promptly alert the public about missing endangered persons will make a difference. Oregon's system should be developed so that it will notify law enforcement when there's a report of a missing endangered person, place messages on highway reader boards, radio, and social media, as well as provide information to the news media.

As of January 2, 2023, 1,127 children were successfully recovered through the AMBER Alert system. We expect similar successes with the passage of this bill. We commend the State of Oregon for being among the states at the forefront of this effort.

For these reasons the CTUIR strongly urges you to support HB 2764. Thank you for your time and consideration.