



**Testimony of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
House Committee on Gambling Regulation
HB 3154
March 28, 2023**

Chair Lively and members of the Committee,

My name is Gary E. George and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Wildhorse Resort and Casino which is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). I appreciate this opportunity to comment on behalf of the CTUIR on HB 3154.

The CTUIR opposes the HB 3154-1 amendment because it presumes that there will be an expansion of the gaming that the state offers or regulates (lines 8-9 in -1 amendment). The CTUIR opposes any further expansion of state gaming because such expansion will directly and adversely affect the Wildhorse gaming revenues that support the programs and services that the CTUIR provides to our Tribal community. You may recall that the CTUIR provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Gambling Regulation on July 20, 2022. That testimony identified the Tribal programs and services funded by Wildhorse revenues, the employment and living wage and benefits that Wildhorse provides its 900+ employees and the contributions that the Wildhorse Foundation makes to charitable organizations in our market area. An expansion of state gaming will threaten the revenue, employment and charitable giving that Wildhorse provides.

The Committee should also be aware that the Oregon Lottery is the biggest “casino” in the state and that the percentage of Oregon gaming revenue from Lottery retailers has been steadily increasing at the expense of Tribal gaming revenue. The CTUIR has joined with other Oregon Tribes to commission ECONorthwest to prepare a report entitled The Contributions of Indian Gaming to Oregon’s Economy. The most recent report for the years 2018-2019 found that “the dominance and competitive advantages of the Oregon Lottery eroded the market share of Tribal casinos from its peak of 35.5 percent in 2002 to 29.6 percent in 2019.” It is our view that any expansion of state gaming will accelerate this erosion.

For the above reasons, the CTUIR opposes this legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.