

February 9, 2024

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 1509

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, Members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area serving more than 1.7 million people. In 2020, Metro established a tribal affairs program. This program identifies and coordinates opportunities for interested Tribes to consult and engage in Metro's work as a regional government across the greater Portland metropolitan area. Through this work we have learned about the important role Tribes play as co-managers of natural resources in partnership with state and federal agencies across the state of Oregon and Columbia River Basin.

Metro opposes SB 1509.

We urge legislators and the state to identify management actions to address declining salmon populations, including harvest management actions, through existing co-management processes that are in place, including the *United States v. Oregon Management Agreement*. Signatory parties to the *United States v. Oregon* include the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington; and NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. This agreement provides a framework for tribal, state, and federal co-managers to conduct responsible, fair, and equitable fisheries. The state should consult with the *United States v. Oregon* parties to identify the most prudent management actions and expenditure(s) of public funds, informed by best available science, co-manager expertise, and legal, policy and technical reviews, to make progress on salmon recovery.

We also support legislation that promotes substantive inclusion and consultation of Tribes in decision-making and policy-making that has the potential to affect their respective interests, including treaty-protected interests and treaty-guaranteed fisheries. It appears Tribes were not adequately consulted in the drafting of this bill, as evidence by concerns expressed by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (CTBYN). We urge and encourage proper consultation with interested and affected tribal co-managers before any further consideration of SB 1509 and before the proposal of legislation such as SB 1509 in the future.

In their February 8th letter, the CTBYN highlight among many issues their concern that this Bill is part of an ongoing effort to eventually ban gill nets. We encourage the Committee to seriously consider CTBYN's concerns and to avoid any action that has the potential to target a traditional means of fishing for any tribal community and/or has the potential to disproportionately impact tribal members exercising treaty protected rights in the bill's implementation.

Metro supports legislation that respects the role of Tribes as sovereigns and co-managers of natural resources that are important to tribal and non-tribal communities across our state. We are aware that multiple Tribes are on the record with their opposition to similar legislation in the state of Washington. We echo the concerns of the CTBYN and oppose this legislation for the reasons

described above.

We urge your opposition to SB 1509.

Sincerely,

Jenna Jones
State and Regional Affairs Advisor
Metro