



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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House Committee on Judiciary

900 Court St. NE, HR F

Salem, OR 97301

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Office of Government Relations, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 3198 with the -1 amendment.

The City of Portland's Tribal Relations Program promotes culturally grounded relationships and decision-making processes through government-to-government engagement with Tribal governments and the urban Indigenous and advises City bureaus and elected City leaders on outreach to Tribal governments and the urban Indigenous community.

With the -1 amendment, HB 3198 will require the Oregon Health Authority to dedicate staff to addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people through victim services and outreach, development of interagency agreements with tribal governments, prioritizing data collection on missing and murdered Indigenous people in Oregon, and collaboration the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to implement community education and support youth engagement initiatives.

Disappearances and murders of Indigenous people is directly connected to domestic and other forms of violence, sexual assault, and trafficking, and according to the National Institutes of Justice, nearly four out of five Indigenous women have experienced violence in the United States. This is a devastating reality that is often overlooked by our justice system, leaving many Indigenous families without answers when a relative goes missing. Taking the actions outlined in the -1 amendment to address the emergency of missing and murdered Indigenous populations is long overdue and is critical as we create a justice system that prioritizes the safety of all communities.

On behalf of the City of Portland Office of Government Relations, I urge your support for HB 3198 and the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

Sam Chase

Director, City of Portland Office of Government Relations