

Submitter: Maleek Mckenzie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3628

I am writing to express concerns regarding specific provisions within HB3628. While I appreciate the intent behind the establishment of a Tribal Advisory Council, I believe the bill, as currently drafted, lacks sufficient mechanisms to ensure meaningful tribal input and influence.

Specifically, the following points warrant further consideration:

- \* Lack of Enforcement Mechanisms: While the Authority is mandated to consult with the Tribal Advisory Council, the bill does not outline consequences for non-compliance. This absence of enforcement mechanisms raises concerns about the practical impact of the advisory council's recommendations.

- \* Absence of Tribal Representation on the Authority: The bill does not mandate that any voting members of the Authority be representatives of Oregon's federally recognized tribes. This omission diminishes the potential for direct tribal participation in decision-making processes and risks rendering the Tribal Advisory Council a symbolic rather than substantive body.

- \* Explicit Focus on "Economic Growth": The stated objective to "support economic growth in this state" is concerning. While economic growth may be a natural byproduct of the Authority's work, its explicit inclusion as a primary goal could lead to future conflicts. It could be used to justify decisions that potentially disregard environmental or cultural considerations, under the guise of prioritizing economic development.

I believe these issues require careful attention to ensure that the Authority operates with transparency, accountability, and genuine respect for tribal sovereignty and interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maleek McKenzie