



The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Natural Resources
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47010 SW Hebo Road
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February 8, 2024

To: Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Re: HB 3314 – Mitigate Harmful Algal Blooms in the Ross Island Lagoon

As the Program Manager of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde I request that you provide your full support for HB 3314. The Human Access Project (HAP) is an important partner to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We are supportive of HAP's mission of restoring the health and productivity of the Willamette River.

CTGR is a federally recognized Tribe that includes over 30 Tribes and bands from western Oregon, northern California, and southwest Washington. Grand Ronde's tribal homelands extend from the Columbia River south to incorporate the Willamette Valley all the way to the California border. Since time immemorial, tribal people have relied on traditional landscapes for our livelihood. The native fish, wildlife, water, soil, sediment, and plants of the Willamette River and Basin are all considered natural and cultural resources of the Tribe. After signing the ratified Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, the original tribes and bands of the Willamette Basin were forcibly removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation at the western edge of the Basin. However, Tribal connections to our homelands have remained unbroken, and today the Tribe continues its traditions of fishing, hunting, and gathering plant materials.

The problem at Ross Island is significant and we remain partnered with HAP and are encouraged by the growing coalition they have assembled to address the alarming harmful cyanobacteria bloom (HCB) problem. House Bill 3314 is one of the last critical steps need to the HCB problem at Ross Island. Please provide your support for this critical need to restore the health of the Willamette River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Dirksen".

Kelly Dirksen
Fish and Wildlife Program Manager
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