



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2346

Chair Tran, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), we are submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 2346. CRITFC is the fisheries management coordination organization of four treaty tribes: 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, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

House Bill 2346 is essential in clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) and will further strengthen its ability to support both tribes, specifically the CRITFC member tribes, and counties during emergencies.

Since 2020, CRITFC has worked with OREM on various emergency management initiatives along the Columbia River, include COVID-19 response efforts, disaster preparedness, and resource distribution. OREM has been a critical partner in ensuring the safety and well-being of the CRITFC member tribes by providing essential support such as valuable training resources to our team, wildfire support, and emergency management resources.

House Bill 2346 in a necessary step toward formalizing and enhancing OREM's ability to provide mass care and social service recovery support before and during emergencies, specifically to tribes, is vital. Specifically, this bill will:

- Ensure that tribal communities are equitably included in Oregon's emergency response framework.
- Provide OREM with the authority to enter contracts with or distribute grants to public and private entities, allowing tribal governments and organizations to access funding and resources for mass care services at all stages of emergency response; and
- Ensure continuity of essential social services of ODHS clients, which includes many tribal citizens who rely on these programs for their well-being during and after emergencies.

The CRITFC member tribes have faced unique inequities in emergency situations, making OREM's support indispensable to our communities. By passing HB 2346, the Oregon

Legislature can reinforce OREM's mission and improve disaster response coordination across the state.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of this crucial legislation and urge your support for HB 2346. Thank you for your time and commitment to strengthening emergency management for all Oregonians, including the Native people living and fishing along the Columbia River.

Sincerely,



Aja. K. DeCoteau
Executive Director