



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

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March 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
Oregon State Legislature Building
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 1011

Dear Chair Manning and Committee Members:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians ("CTCLUSI" or "Tribe") in support of SB 1011.

In the 1950s, the United States government established policies to terminate Native nations (including CTCLUSI and other Oregon tribes) in an effort to assimilate Native people into the dominant culture. As part of a suite of harmful legislation, the federal government passed Public Law 280 in 1953. The legislation initially included five states—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Oregon, and California. Other states later adopted elements of the legislation. Today, Public Law 280 remains on the books. Unsurprisingly, the federal government failed to consult with or receive consent from Native nations before passing PL 280.

PL 280 required states like Oregon to assume criminal and civil jurisdiction over Tribal lands. This law allowed state law enforcement to operate on Tribal lands without Tribal consent, prosecuting both Native and non-Native individuals in state courts.

In 1968, Congress amended PL-280 to allow states to return jurisdiction to Tribes or the federal government (known as retrocession). However, Oregon still lacks a clear statutory process for Tribes seeking retrocession. Decisions are currently made on an ad hoc basis, relying on the Governor's discretion. This creates uncertainty for Tribes pursuing retrocession.

The Tribe strongly support SB 1011 because it establishes a defined process for retrocession requests by Tribes. The bill requires the Governor to respond within a set timeline, ensuring consistency and accountability. By creating a formal pathway, SB 1011 recognizes Tribal sovereignty and reduces political barriers to retrocession.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing this bill and we appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Brad Kneaper
Chair, Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower and Siuslaw Indians