



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

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March 27, 2025

Senate Natural Resources & Wildfire Committee

RE: Support for SB 512

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians ("CTCLUSI" or "Tribe") in support of Senate Bill 512. This bill represents an opportunity for a state-tribal partnership to protect our cultural traditions and pathways and study the environmental conditions that impact sustainable fish production and native fish preservation.

The Western Oregon Tribes have been stewards of the land, water, and natural resources in our ancestral homelands since Time Immemorial. We are salmon people and our members continue to depend on salmon for cultural and subsistence purposes.

CTCLUSI, along with other Tribal partners, has been working to create stronger partnerships with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other natural resource agencies to balance the ability of our people to access our culture and practices with our shared commitment to conservation for future generations. Unfortunately, this work has been challenging across the various agencies that administer Oregon's natural resource programs. Funding is one part of the challenge, and the state's understanding and appreciation of Tribes as sovereigns over our natural resources is also challenging.

This legislation has the potential to begin bridging that divide. It provides necessary funding for the state to participate in that partnership meaningfully with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, providing resources from their government for the other part. It brings together two governments to work on a solution that impacts the entire region and state. This will serve as a model for other partnerships with other Tribes, ODFW, and the other state agencies we interact with daily.

Thanks for your consideration of this letter and we appreciate your leadership in passing this important bill.

Respectfully,

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