

Submitter:

Cindy Mahoney

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3532

I oppose this measure

Here are my reasons:

1. Our state is rich with First Nation culture.
2. How could we possibly erase history?
3. Why would we want to?
4. The names of rivers, mountains, cities, even highways & statutes remind me of each tribe, each tribe and how our entire state honors them.
5. We would have to change the name of the state. The name "Oregon" itself is believed to have derived from a word meaning "beautiful river" in various Algonquian languages, like Mohegan ("Wuarigan" or "Olighan") and Seneca ("olighin"). The meaning may have been applied by the explorers.
7. Why would the Willamette Valley not reconize the Kalapuya people, who traditionally inhabited the Willamette Valley? To me that would be offensive to not even be named.
8. Why would Takelma, Norht & South Umpqua tribes, Cow Creek, Coos and more NOT want to be recognized as those who've inhabited Oregon long before the Whites? This is a genocidal erasure of all the people here.

Finally - The Dalles in Oregon has a long history of Native American presence and is considered part of the traditional homeland of the Wasco Tribe, which is part of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Dalles was a significant trading center for Native Americans for thousands of years. The Wasco Tribe, including the Dalles and Dog River bands, is one of the three tribes (Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute) that make up the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Wasco Tribe's traditional homelands include the area around The Dalles, and the city of The Dalles itself was established on land that was traditionally used by the Wasco people. The Wasco people were known as the People of the Horn-bowl and were part of the larger Chinookan linguistic and cultural group.

Tuekakas, renamed Joseph - the Chief of the Nez Perce who wanted war no more. You'll strike that from history? Chief Joseph was a leader of the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce Tribe. When Joseph grew up and assumed the chieftanship, he was under increasing governmental pressure to abandon his Wallowa land and join the rest of the Nez Perce on their reservation near Lapwai, Idaho. Joseph refused, saying that he had promised his father he would never leave.

HOW DARE WE ERASE HIM? Anyone who wishes to erase First Nation names is a WHITE MAN or WHITE WOMAN or a traitor to their tribe.

WHITE people tried to ERASE our tribes. They nearly succeeded. With this measure the genocide would be complete, the massacres, forgotten.

Have the Whites taken over Oregon? YES. Did they name the cities and counties, rivers, highways some type of offensive conquering of them? Shame upon the WHITES for keeping roads such as Dead Indian Road - named after two warring tribes - should WHITES be shamed continually? YES. Should WHITES remember the genocide of First Nation tribes. YES.

Not likely. Look at Europe. All of the original names of the towns conquered were renamed to highlight how well they conquered those lands.

So why would anyone want to erase the origins of the names of everything? Why? Even animals named by First Nation would have to be erased.

I ask as an ancestor of the Seneca tribe in the US and Canada. My husband begs as an ancestor of the Cherokee tribe to DO NOT ERASE HISTORY.

DO NOT ERASE US.

Therefore WE both oppose this bill.

DO NOT ERASE US.