



## Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

PO Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380

(541) 444-2532

(800) 922-1399

Fax: (541) 444-2307

May 8, 2025


Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the Siletz Valley School Revitalization and Safety Improvements project requested by our school community. They have waited a long time to be able to improve the school, which is the hub of our community. They are unable to apply for grants or bonds due to their charter status and they do not own the land which once belonged to the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. By rule, the sponsoring school district bond dollars cannot be given to them.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz has generously supported the Siletz Valley School through financial contributions since its becoming a charter school. Even with that support, money for maintenance and upgrades is hard to come by, keeping the aging building, built in 1934, operating takes all of their facilities dollars.

The Siletz Valley School has made many strides to benefit students:

- Home to the 2025 Small Schools Teacher of the Year
- Staff who have been working at the school their entire careers
- A top notch indigenous culture program
- Woodshop and culinary programs that are recognized as some of the best
- An independent farm to table program with the tribe
- Local ocean seafood program with local businesses
- Free food program for our community, and students who are learning to live in community with others.
- They offer robotics, drones, computer aided design and CNC, agriscience and oyster farming
- They partner with OSU SMILE, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Yakona Education programs, Oregon Coast Community College, Young Entrepreneur Program (we have a finalist this year), OBOB, VEX Robotics and Drone Competitions.



All of these accomplishments are made even more astounding when you realize they only have 24 students in the 2025 graduating class, and this level of engagement between community and schools is unparalleled for a school our size.

We are one community- the City of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and all the people who work and live here, or nearby. We want to provide our children a place to learn where they feel safe, comfortable, and excited to learn. Currently, classroom heating is either on or off, and requires each teacher to radio the facilities staff to turn it off when it gets too warm. There is no Air Conditioning in the building (except for three small classrooms in the annex.) The lights in the gym are old and if a light is broken, we will have to close the gym due to hazardous waste concerns from the light fixtures. The gym bathrooms are not ADA accessible. There are no dedicated science labs, and pipes are broken in several classrooms. There are holes in siding that allow wind and rain into several buildings. The roofs leak, and internet access is sporadic and make uninterrupted state testing sessions a challenge.

Staff and students want and need safety upgrades like stronger classroom doors and locks that prevent unwanted and unsafe actors from entering the school and classrooms. The community wants more for our children and we need your help. They have, thanks to our culinary program, a portable kitchen to feed our community in case of a catastrophic event, but without a generator, the school cannot keep our children safe and warm as they await reunification with their families.

Funding this project will allow Siletz Valley School to provide another 30-50 years of education in our community.

Respectfully,



Kurtis Barker  
Chief Executive Officer  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

