



*From the Office of*  
**THE SENATE PRESIDENT**

May 28, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Pham, and members of the committee,

For the record, Rob Wagner, I represent Senate District 19 and I have the honor of serving as Senate President.

I'm here today to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 31, which honors the Legislative Commission on Indian Services for its 50-year anniversary. The reality is that tribes have existed on this land we now call Oregon since time immemorial. Many of us here are relatively new neighbors to Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes: The Burns Paiute Tribe; The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw; The Coquille Indian Tribe; The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde; The Klamath Tribes; The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.

In 1975, Senate Bill 386, sponsored by Sens. Vic Atiyeh, Bill McCoy, Debs Potts and Reps. Roger Martin and Norma Paulus, established the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The Commission was formed during a time when there were no state services for tribes or Indian people. Sen. Vic Atiyeh's testimony during the deliberation of Senate Bill 386 in 1975 noted that there was significant mistrust toward State Government as Indian people had experienced severe injustices throughout their encounters with federal, state, and local governments. The Legislative Commission on Indian Services was created to help foster a relationship built on trust and cooperation between the State of Oregon and the Nine Tribal Nations.

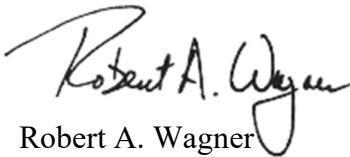
In large part, we've been successful. I'm proud to say the state has worked with the Tribes on a variety of important topics over the past 50 years, including health care, economic development, education, public safety, natural resource management, cultural resource management and more. The partnership between the Tribes and the state

since the founding of LCIS is something to celebrate. That's why Speaker Julie Fahey and I partnered to co-chief sponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 31. Oregon was the first state in the nation to establish a Commission on Indian Services and it's notable because it is a legislative commission and not an executive branch agency. Our current Senate members are Sen. Dick Anderson and Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin. And I'm proud to be here with my friend Rep. McIntire, who along with Rep. Sanchez are the two House member appointees.

We know state government overall, as well as the Legislature specifically, does not always get it right. There are times when we needed to engage more with the Tribes, lean into this relationship, rely on the wisdom and deep knowledge of this place that the Tribes have historically called home. Our ongoing dialogue, consultation and collaboration is essential for all Oregonians to thrive and prosper. LCIS is a key part of that consultation, but just one part.

We are here to reaffirm that the Legislative Assembly remains committed to working with the Tribes and continuing to improve state-tribal relationships to move our state forward. We must commit to respecting the Tribes as independent, sovereign nations – they are distinct individual sovereign governments. We must commit to working together to strengthen the relationship between the state and tribal nations. We must commit to consulting, listening, and working to understand, and doing our best to not make assumptions about tribal needs; and we must commit to continuing to advocate to Congress and to the President to honor treaties and promises made to Oregon's Tribes. Relationships require work and they need to be two-sided. We look forward to the next 50 years as we face the future together as partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Wagner" clearly legible.

Robert A. Wagner  
Oregon Senate President