



**COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS**  
GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
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Dear Oregon Legislators,

On behalf of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, we are writing to express our support for the Riddle Elementary Schoolyard project.

The Tribe, in partnership with Riddle School District and the Trust for Public Land, have been engaged in a long-term consultation on the design of the schoolyard. In response to the yard's natural landscape, signage featured throughout the playground will make connections to native plants, highlight illustrations by a Cow Creek Umpqua artist, and integrate Takelma language. An investment of \$550,000 from the State (matched over 60% with private and federal funds) will ensure the completion of this community-driven project.

According to the Native Plants & Foods Institute's *Plant Teaching for Growing Social-Emotional Skills* curriculum, opportunities to engage in outdoor learning that are "place-based, promote respect for the land, and increase understanding of Tribal history, traditions, and food sovereignty" help students develop mindfulness and self-awareness skills that cultivate connection to the earth and each other.

While there are many competing and important needs around the state, we urge you to consider this modest funding request that will have a tremendous impact on the Riddle community.

Tuuwuù'k<sup>h</sup> (Thank you),

**Jenifer Bryant**

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