

**Confederated Tribes of the  
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees



46411 Timine Way • Pendleton, OR 97801  
www.ctuir.org • email: info@ctuir.org  
Phone 541-276-3165 • Fax: 541-276-3095

December 7, 2017

Senator Michael Dembrow  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Ken Helm  
900 Court St. NE, H-490  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Dembrow and Representative Helm:

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) appreciates your effort on the SB 1070 Cap and Invest initiative. The CTUIR is deeply concerned about climate change and we have undertaken numerous projects to minimize our carbon emissions including solar, wind and bio-fuel.


We understand it is late in the process, however we would like to ensure that the legislation specifically identifies tribes as participants in the certain aspects of the bill's implementation, rather than relying upon an uncertain regulatory process to address tribal participation. Further, we hope to become more involved in the legislative hearings, drafting and passage of any bill intended to address climate change, an issue that is dramatically affecting us all.

The CTUIR has extensive experience in implementing legislation that was not specifically contemplated to include tribal governments. We have discovered in other legislative and regulatory processes that if tribes are not specifically acknowledged in legislation as parties, ensuring tribal inclusion in regulations is extremely difficult if not impossible. The proposed legislation, SB 1070, only mentions tribes once and only in reference to parties to be consulted in the development of regulations. The CTUIR would like tribes to be expressly included in Sections 9(12) and 16(2)(c).

Further, Section 16 identifies the components of the Climate Investment Grant Program. Section 16(6) identifies specific elements of the grant program. Specific language in Section 16(6) to call out tribes as potential recipients of grants would go a long way to avoid any uncertainty as to whether tribes are eligible to receive those grants. Language such as a new subsection 16(6)(d) could be added to the indicate that grants may be awarded to tribal governments, associations or programs. We feel this has the potential to avoid significant confusion and argument during implementation of the law.

As noted, we look forward to working closely with you, other legislators, state agencies and all other parties in developing this legislation and seeing it through to implementation. We recognize the final bill may be very different but request that the concepts outlined above be adopted in the appropriate sections. Climate Change threatens all nations and must be addressed immediately.

Respectfully,

  
Gary Burke, Chairman  
Board of Trustees