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Rep. McKeown Appointed to Legislative Commission on Indian Services

SALEM—House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney today announced that Representative Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay) has been appointed to the newly expanded Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services. McKeown and House colleague Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) join Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) and Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) as legislative members on the commission.

On May 9, Governor Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 3, which expanded membership on the commission from one Senator and one Representative to two members from each chamber, not from the same party.

“I am honored to represent three of Oregon’s federally recognized Indian tribes in my district: the Coquille; the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about and serve the unique needs of the nine sovereign Indian nations in our State,” said McKeown.

“Caddy brings a wealth of unique background and experiences to the Legislature,” said Kotek. “She makes legislation stronger and improves committee conversations. She is a strong voice for the coast, and I know she will be a strong voice on the Commission on Indian Services.”

The Legislative Commission on Indian Services was created by statute in 1975 to advise the Legislative Assembly and other Oregon officials and agencies on the needs of American Indian people in the state. The fifteen members of the Commission are appointed to two-year, staggered terms of office. These appointments are made jointly by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and are based on nominations submitted by American Indian tribes and communities in designated areas of the state.

All nine of the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon have a representative on the Commission. These Tribes are the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, the Klamath Tribes, and the Coquille Tribe. Two geographic areas are also represented on Commission. These are the Portland Urban Area and the Willamette Valley area. Four legislative members, two senators and two representatives, are also seated on the Commission.

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