



Office of Senator Kathleen Taylor

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## **Oregon Senate Votes to Establish New Task Force on Tribal Consultation**

*Task force will work to hold state agencies accountable for maintaining a just, respectful consultation process with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 3173](#) unanimously. This bill creates a 15-member Task Force on Tribal Consultation to identify and clarify the requirements of state agencies to maintain a just, respectful consultation process with the Tribes in Oregon and hold them accountable for cooperating with the Tribes. The Task Force will include one member of each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in the state.

“I want to thank Representative Sanchez for her leadership and for bringing this important solution forward. This task force will be essential to building trust and maintaining government-to-government relations between our state and the nine sovereign Tribes in Oregon. Tribal governments have an unparalleled understanding of our state and their input is vital to ensuring our state agencies are acting in the best interest of Oregon,” said **Senator Kathleen Taylor (D-Portland)**, who carried HB 3173 on the Senate floor.

“Oregon’s commitment to a just and respectful consultation process with the 9 federally recognized Tribes requires a deep understanding of the unique government-to-government relationship with the 9 sovereign Tribes, the legal history, perspectives of the Tribes and their relationships with state agencies. The task force is charged with identifying existing processes that already work well and clarifying for agencies and Tribes a more coherent path forward,” said **Representative Tawna Sanchez (D - North and Northeast Portland)**, chief sponsor of HB 3173.

“Cultural competency is critical to help government officials understand the unique communication styles, symbols, and nonverbal cues of Tribal communities. By adapting communication strategies to accommodate cultural differences, we can minimize misunderstandings, build meaningful relationships, and ensure our decision-making processes

honor tribal sovereignty and promote positive outcomes for all stakeholders,” said **Representative Annessa Hartman (D-Gladstone, Oregon City, and N Clackamas County)**, a co-sponsor of HB 3173.

There are nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon: The Burns Paiute Tribe; the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation; the Coquille Indian Tribe; the Klamath Tribes; the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde; and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz.

HB 3173 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 3173 now moves to the Governor’s desk s for consideration.

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