



**REP. SHERRIE SPRENGER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 17**

**For Immediate Release
Friday, March 07, 2014
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Gov. Kitzhaber Signs Mascot Bill into Law

Salem, OR—A bill that allows school district boards to enter into agreements with Oregon’s federally recognized Native American tribes for the use of mascots that represent them has officially been signed into law.

Yesterday, Gov. John Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 1509. The bill was co-sponsored by Rep. Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio), and had previously passed both the House and the Senate.

A similar bill that was sponsored by Sprenger passed both legislative chambers during the regular 2013 session, but was vetoed by Kitzhaber.

“Since the end of the last regular session, I’ve worked with various stakeholders to come to a compromise that can be acceptable to everyone involved,” Rep. Sprenger said. “It was important to balance the interests of our tribes, school districts and other interested parties to ensure the best possible outcome.”

SB 1509 became necessary due to a 2012 decision by the state Board of Education that all Oregon public schools must eliminate such team names and mascots by June 2017 or lose their state funding support.

Lebanon High School, which is located in Rep. Sprenger’s district, uses the warriors as its mascot.

“This bill was important to some of my constituents, so I’m glad that we were able to resolve this issue in such bipartisan fashion,” Rep. Sprenger said.

Rep. Sprenger has represented House District 17 since first being appointed in 2008. Her district includes Lebanon, Sublimity, Gates, Stayton, Sweet Home, Mill City, Lyons, Detroit, Waterloo, Idanha and Scio. She was recently named House Republican Whip.