

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON



Good Morning, Chair Dembrow and Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources and thank for taking the time to listen to concerns related to climate change and how it has affected the territory and resources of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon.

My name is Glendon Smith; I serve as a representative for Warm Springs on the 28th Tribal Council.

Each year, the tribes celebrate and perform community ceremonies for; celery, root, huckleberry, and salmon feasts. The purpose of these ceremonies is to give thanks for our sacred foods as well as commemorate their existence. Within the last 10 years, the gatherers and harvesters have noticed that these sacred foods have arrived one month ahead of their ordinary time of maturity. When you combine this unusual event with the fluctuations in the weather each season, the tribes are left to believe that there is no other cause; other than a change in climate.

The tribes have always enjoyed fresh air and clean water and have already initiated some positive steps to ensure these resources stay that way.

Back in 2010, the tribes along with the help of PGE designed and installed the Select Water Withdrawal system for the benefit of the water and fish in the Deschutes River and surrounding streams. This system takes surface water and bottom water from Lake Billy Chinook and blends them and releases it back into the river. While this project is still in the early stages, the tribes have seen increased numbers of fish at Shearars Bridge and cooler water temperatures. One of the long term goals is to see reintroduction of steelhead populations above the SWW.

Within the past 10 years, the tribes have utilized the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund to provide transportation for people traveling from Warm Springs to Madras and vice versa. This has helped us cut back on greenhouse gas emissions and highway congestion.

Back in 2016, the tribe certified around 20,000 acres of timber stands for a carbon sequestration project. The tribe opted into this offset program where the tribes receive revenue funds through carbon credits through the California Market in exchange for letting the timber stand without harvesting. The tribes are aware of the dangers of climate change and the activities that contribute to this catastrophe and believe there needs to be stronger measures put in-to-place to ensure the people continue to enjoy clean air and clean water going forward, which is why Warm Springs supports SB 1530. Furthermore, SB 1530 can help the Tribes do much more group transportation to cut down on fuel use and emissions.

Respectfully,

Glendon Neal Smith, Warm Springs Tribal Council Member