



The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians

Press Release – December 28, 2017

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians is pleased to announce that after over 10 years in the making, the H.R. 1306 - Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act passed the Senate unanimously on Thursday, December 21, 2017.

The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act passed the House of Representatives in July. The bill passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously in March. And has now passed the Senate this December 2017. The bill cedes 17,519 acres of federal land to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, and 14,742 acres to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The bill also amends the Coquille Indian Tribe's Restoration Act to require the Interior Department to manage their forest lands in the same manner as other Tribal forests. On December 27, 2017 the bill was presented to the President and is awaiting his signature. You can view the bill online by visiting www.congress.gov and searching H.R. 1306.

Confederated Tribes Chief Warren Brainard shared "After the Tribes restoration, in 1986 I began to work with Council on the first forest plan. This is a lifetime accomplishment that I feel privileged to be a part of. We did this for our people, for the success of seven generations and beyond."

The bill was authorized by Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Representatives Greg Walden and Peter DeFazio. DeFazio said there's "still much work to be done to correct our nation's injustices towards Native Americans, the passage of the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act is an encouraging move toward progress. This legislation will finally grant the Coos [Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw], Cow Creek and Coquille Tribes the long-deserved opportunity to manage their own economic development and exercise their own authority over tribal lands."

Tribal Chairman Mark Ingersoll stated, "After over a decades long dedication to working towards getting these lands returned, it is a dream come true to see it come to fruition."

The Confederated Tribes is extremely grateful to members of Tribal Council, both current and past, as well as to the countless Tribal Government staff, and community partners, Senators, and Representatives who have aided in seeing this bill pass through the Senate. Due to the hard work, dedications, and determination of so many, the Tribe is seeing some restitution from the federal government. A thank you to all who have helped us achieve this goal of once again becoming stewards of our home lands, and building a sustainable future for the next seven generations.