



**Testimony of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
SB 1533 - February 3, 2022**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its views on, and support for, SB 1533. The CTUIR urges the Committee to approve this bill and ensure that federally recognized tribes are eligible for grants related to clean air shelters and smoke filtration.

The climate crisis threatens every aspect of life, exposing us to exponentially increasing amounts of risk: risk of catastrophic flooding and wildfire, of drought, disease, and conflict. Tribal people are at the forefront of the climate crisis. Access to the Wildfire grant program will help us manage the increased smoke from Wildfires and associated clean air impacts.

Fires in our area are normal and necessary for the ecosystem functions that support CTUIR members and our First Foods – water, fish, big game, roots, and berries. Fire will always be an important ecosystem function and provides our Foods with essential nutrients, rich soils, and the landscapes in which they thrive. However, climate and land management fueled wildfires and resulting smoke threatens the health of our members, our First Foods, and their habitats. While we all strive to reverse the climate trajectory, access to the Wildfire grant program is necessary to maintain and improve the health of our members.

The CTUIR requests that the Committee vote to approve SB 1533 and send it on for a vote on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.