



Spilyay Tymoo

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Members speak in favor of state carbon legislation

The Confederated Tribes are familiar with state efforts to limit green house gas emissions.

The state of California enacted a carbon-reduction law some years ago, and the Confederated Tribes now participate in the program.

The tribes manage areas of the reservation forest to enhance carbon reduction in the atmosphere. This serves as an offset for a California company that exceeds that state's limit on the amount of the emissions.

The tribes are compensated for this effort, a successful venture, and one of the more important financially in recent years to the tribes.

The Oregon legislature is considering a similar law, called House Bill 2020. In the past the tribes have advocated for such legislation. Regarding the latest bill, individual tribal members have so far commented in favor.

In Central Oregon there will be a chance to comment to lawmakers on the proposal.

Tribal youth among first to testify at hearing

At 11 years of age, Kiahna Allen already has a good idea of what she would like to do in the future.

Kiahna listens to and learns from the elders she knows in the community. They have taught her the primary importance of water.

Kiahna also has a gift for public speaking. She would like to put the two things together and become an environmental lawyer, specializing in water law.

This is a well-thought and long-term goal for a sixth-grader at the Warm Springs Academy.

Kiahna also plays basketball for sport but her real interest is in political and legal advocacy.

Her brother Kiellan, 10, is kind of the opposite: He ex-



Kiahna Allen speaks at the state hearing on the carbon bill.

cels at sports, especially basketball, but doesn't find the politics as interesting.

Leaders in the community often take Kiahna to public events—the Treaty Conference, for instance—where she participates in

the discourse.

Most recently, Tribal Councilwoman Carina Miller traveled with Kiahna to a session of the Oregon legislature, where the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee was taking testimony on House Bill 2020.

Kiahna was on the first panel to testify. She spoke of her elders' teachings on the importance of a healthy environment.

"We already see the effects of global warming on our roots, berries and salmon," Kiahna said.

The state's decision regarding HB 2020, she said, will certainly affect her own and future generations.

Kiahna is the daughter of Lorien Stacona, Health and Human Services tribal targeted case manager; and Gordon Scott, liaison with the Oregon Health Sciences University.

— Dave McMechan

The Oregon Joint Carbon Reduction Committee will hold a public meeting on HB 2020 this Satur-

day, March 2 in Bend at the Central Oregon Community College campus, Cascade Hall room 246-

248.

House Bill 2020 has many strong advocates among Oregon

residents and lawmakers. There is also significant opposition, so the fate of the bill is unclear.

March vote on proposed automatic enrollment adjustment

The membership on March 15 will decide a tribal Constitutional question regarding the standard for automatic enrollment in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Some tribal history helps inform the question, as the matter is traced back more than 80 years, to the tribal Constitution of 1938.

The 1938 constitution states that a person could be automatically enrolled in the Confederated Tribes if the person had one-quarter Indian blood.

The tribes in 1966 amended this provision to say that a person could be automatically enrolled if the

person had one-quarter blood of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

By resolution in 1975 the Tribal Council established the baseline for determining blood quantum. The baseline was the 1940 tribal census.

This meant that the quantum of Indian blood, regardless of tribal ancestry, of a person on the 1940 census is considered Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs blood.

A descendant of a person whose name is on the census could then count all of that ancestor's

Indian blood as Confederated Tribes blood, for purposes of determining automatic enrollment of the descendant.

By resolution in 2008 Tribal Council updated the baseline to the 1960 census, with the same effect: The quantum of Indian blood of a person on the 1960 census is considered Confederated Tribes blood. And descendants look to that to determine their own quantum of Confederated Tribes blood.

On April 25, 2016 the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council by resolution again voted to update

the baseline, to the 1980 census. Four days later this resolution was subject to a referendum challenge by three Council members: The constitution provides for a referendum challenge to a resolution by two or more Council members.

And this brings us to the March 15 referendum. Tribal attorney Howard Arnett gives a good explanation of the referendum question: You can see his explanation on YouTube. Search: "1980 census baseline information for 2019 tribal referendum."

The ballot

The March 15 referendum asks:

"Should Resolution 12,157 determining the blood quantum for the purpose of automatic enrollment be approved?"

Resolution 12,157 is the April, 2016 resolution, suggesting the baseline be adjusted to the 1980 census.

The automatic enrollment process is one of two ways a person may be enrolled in the Confederated Tribes.

See REFERENDUM on 8



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Toboggan time (above) arrived in Warm Springs with the powerful winter storm; while BIA Roads (right) helped keep the vehicles moving.

The weather this week closed schools and the tribal organization. The snow was heavy, causing at least some damage, as one resident's hay barn roof collapsed. On the bright side, the reservation and the region needed the snow. Earlier in February, the reservation had been at 75 percent of normal snowpack, according to monitoring by the Branch of Natural Resources.



Courtesy Edward Heath Photography

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