

Tribe has support of Polk, Yamhill county commissioners

RESERVATION ACT continued from front page

unanimous support of Polk and Yamhill county commissioners, the two counties affected by this legislation," Leno said.

Except for several updated land descriptions, H.R. 841 is identical to legislation that received a hearing in the subcommittee on July 24, 2012, he added.

"As a result of the federal government's allotment and termination policies, Grand Ronde lost both its federal recognition and its original reservation of more than 60,000 acres," Leno said. "Grand Ronde's Restoration Act restored 9,811 acres of the Tribe's original reservation to the Grand Ronde people. Since 1988, the Tribe has pursued the goal of securing its sovereignty by acquiring additional parcels of its original reservation and providing on-reservation jobs and services to Tribal and community members.

"The Tribe is hampered in its efforts to restore land within its original reservation by a lengthy and cumbersome Bureau of Indian Affairs process. After it acquires a parcel in fee, the Tribe must prepare

a fee-to-trust application package for the BIA. Then BIA processes the application as an 'on-reservation acquisition' or an 'off-reservation acquisition.'

"Because the Tribe does not have exterior reservation boundaries (instead, it has distinct parcels deemed reservation through legislation), all parcels are processed under the more rigorous off-reservation acquisition regulations – even if the parcel is located within the boundaries of the original reservation.

"After the land is accepted into trust, the Tribe must take an additional step of amending its Reservation Act through federal legislation to include the trust parcels in order for land to be deemed reservation land. Grand Ronde has been forced to come to the U.S. Congress three times in the last 20 years to amend its Reservation Act to secure reservation status



Reyn Leno

Want to watch the hearing?

To view the archived hearing, visit <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=333092>

for its trust lands. This process is unduly time-consuming, expensive, bureaucratic and often takes years to complete."

Leno said passage of the legislation would save the Tribe and federal government time and money by streamlining the process.

"Based on the universal support of H.R. 841 and the importance of the legislation to the Tribe, I request the legislation be included in the committee's first markup," Leno said.

A companion bill to H.R. 841 was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Feb. 28 by Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

The legislation now heads to the House Committee on Natural Resources, where the panel may make changes and vote to send it to the full House.

Leno then reiterated the Grand Ronde Tribe's opposition to H.R. 931, which would allow the Confederated Tribes of Siletz to take land into trust within the boundaries of the former Coast Reservation.

"Grand Ronde is opposed as it

would significantly infringe on the rights of the Grand Ronde and other Tribes in western Oregon," Leno said. "Grand Ronde would be supportive of the legislation, if amended, to limit the scope of the legislation to Lincoln County consistent with the Siletz Indian Tribe Restoration Act.

"The Coast Reservation has never been designated exclusively for the Siletz, but for many Tribes throughout western Oregon, including antecedent Tribes and bands of Grand Ronde, such as the Tribes of the Willamette Valley, Umpqua Valley and Rogue River Valley.

"While Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and others opposed to the legislation can agree to disagree with the Siletz Tribe regarding its claim of primacy to the Coast Reservation, the simple facts are that H.R. 931 is opposed by at least two Oregon Tribes with legitimate cultural and historical claims to the area involved, fails to enjoy the support of the six counties affected by the legislation and does not have the support of the congressmen who represent four of the six counties contained in the legislation."

Siletz Tribal Chair Delores Pigsley testified in support of H.R. 931.

Also attending the House hearing were Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr. and Tribal Attorney Rob Greene. ■



Congratulations

Lei-Lani Hernandez

For all your hard work and dedication you have truly shown leadership in pursuing your high school diploma.

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Congratulations

Dawna M. Hulet



Graduated from Scottsdale Community College in Arizona, and received a Pendleton sash from the Native American Program! It only took 30 years hee hee but did it before she turns 50!

Tribal Court seeks request for proposals

In an effort to build the capacity of the Court, Tribe is seeking Requests for Proposals from interested individuals, legal service providers, agencies or law firms to develop new Tribal ordinances, revise current ordinances, develop self-help packets and develop local rules for the court.

To obtain a copy of the RFP contact Angela Fasana at 503-879-4596 or angela.fasana@grandronde.org. Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. June 28, 2013. ■

Notice to Interested Persons

Invitation for Bids Tribal Court Remodel The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Grand Ronde, Oregon

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) seeks bids from qualified and licensed contractors for safety and security upgrades to CTGR's Tribal Court.

Scope of work includes installation of bulletproof resistant doors, bulletproof panels and creating additional staff space.

The Court will continue to operate during the remodel project and the contractor will be required to be flexible with respect to the Court's scheduled hearings.

Copies of the IFB documents may be obtained by e-mailing Jesse White at jesse.white@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-2404.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 3 p.m. at Tribal Court, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.

Respondents shall provide a written bid by 3 p.m. June 19, 2013, to Jesse White, Owner's Representative, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. ■

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