

From the Office of

## **OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE COURT BOICE**

Paula Hart, Director Office of Indian Gaming, B.I.A. 1849 C Street, N.W. MS-3543-MIB Washington, DC 20240 November 21, 2023

RE: Coquille Tribe Pending Medford Oregon Gaming Application

Dear Director Hart:

I represent Oregon's first district in the Oregon House of Representatives. Prior to my time at the Oregon Legislature, I served Curry County as County Commissioner as well as a trustee on the Coquille Tribal Community Grant Funding Board. Over the years I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the Coquille Indian Tribe has had on the communities they serve, achieving significant and lasting results with job creation, far reaching philanthropy, species protection and responsible forestry management across Southern Oregon.

Currently, the Coquille have had a 2-acre Medford, Oregon gaming and fee to trust application pending at the U.S. Department of Interior for well over a decade. I believe it is time to move forward on this application. The Department of Interior should uphold its trust responsibility and approve the Coquille Tribe's application. This parcel clearly meets the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's Restored Lands exception, and the Coquille Restoration Act fully allows the Secretary to take these lands into trust.

This project will be good for all the Southern Oregon Region and will help the Tribe continue its efforts to make life better here for all residents and species. Please review this request as soon as possible. I look forward to any questions you and your staff may have. Thank You in advance.

**COURT BOICE, Oregon State Representative – District 1 -** including Curry and parts of Coos - Douglas Counties. <u>Rep.CourtBoice@OregonLegislature.gov</u> Phone (503) 986-1401

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