



June 7, 2021

To the Coquille Tribal Council and Whom It May Concern:

After nearly a decade of active involvement in our community, the City of Medford acknowledges and applauds the efforts of the Coquille Indian Tribe and its business entities for their commitment to economic and community development in Medford.

As one of nine federally recognized tribes in the State of Oregon, the Coquille Tribe is uniquely situated to support the economic health of Medford and Jackson County. Many native people have called our region home over the centuries, but only the Coquille Tribe have a mandate, backed by federal law, to use every tool available to them, including placing land into trust, to achieve economic development in Medford.

Over this past decade we have witnessed the progress of the Coquille Tribe's economic development efforts as they patiently moved forward with what is now the \$22 million Cedars Development project in South Medford. The Tribe expects additional development of its properties over the next several years that will boost our city's travel and tourism economy and produce many local employment and career opportunities for our citizens.

Throughout this time the Coquille Tribe has expressed its commitment to a collaborative working relationship with the City of Medford. This relationship already has generated over \$500,000 in system development fees and permitting as well as a commitment by the Tribe to a 'fee for service' arrangement to replace any city revenue that would be lost if land is taken into trust by the federal government. It is rare for owners of tax-exempt property to make such an offer.

In addition to its commitment to the city, the Coquille Tribe also has expressed its long-term commitment to our community through the creation of a 'Potlatch Fund' dedicated to supporting community service organizations in Medford and throughout Jackson County. The fund already has supported organizations such as Access, Asante, SOU and the United Way of Jackson County. The Tribe also contributed to wildfire relief efforts and provided COVID-19 vaccines to area residents at a time when local availability of vaccines was limited.

The City of Medford appreciates the years of involvement and investment in our community by the Coquille Indian Tribe. We look forward to working as partners with the Coquille Tribe as they bring their economic vision to reality.

Sincerely,

Randy Sparacino, Mayor

Tim D'Alessandro, Council President

Supported by: Council Vice President Kevin Stine and Councilors Alex Poythress, Chad Miller, Clay Bearson, Eric Stark, Michael Zarosinski and Sarah Spansail