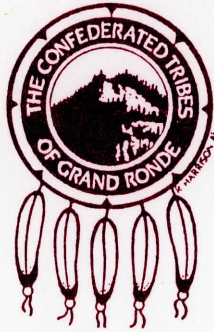


THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES  
OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY  
OF OREGON



TRIBAL COUNCIL

November 9, 1992

Honorable Les AuCoin  
U.S. Representative  
860 Montgomery Park  
2701 NW Vaughn  
Portland, OR 97210

Dear Les:

I realize that now is a disappointing time for many of us throughout Oregon. However, I wish not to dwell on this for now.

Instead, since the election, I have been reminiscing about the times working with you and your staff. The 15th of June, 1986 was the first time I had the pleasure of meeting you. I'm sure you had already met other Tribal representatives, especially in the Tribe's pre-restoration era.

During the pre-restoration era, I had no knowledge what so ever, regarding politics, whether it was Federal, State, or local levels, the Tribe included. It was during the Tribe's nominations for the first Interim Tribal Council that I chose to run for a seat, due to persuasion from friends. On February 24, 1984, 9 of us were sworn in on the Tribal Council. Although I can't say I have learned a lot about the political process since then, the knowledge I have gained while serving the Tribe is invaluable to me.

The Tribe's restoration is no doubt a landmark. But, it's the time we pursued our reservation is what will remain with me forever. What a time this was! The meetings with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife were always interesting. The meetings with the timber industry representatives were even more interesting. The meetings with the Polk County Commissioners were the most interesting yet. But, the relationship between the Tribe and Polk County has improved since those days. (Thank God)!

I don't believe that many of our General Tribal membership (some Tribal Council folks included), realize you fought one of your toughest political battles during your tenure of public service, making our reservation a reality.

UMPQUA  
MOLALLA  
ROGUE RIVER  
KALAPUYA  
CHASTA

9615 GRAND RONDE RD.  
GRAND RONDE, OREGON 97347  
(503) 879-5215



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OF OREGON

Les AuCoin

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Just this morning, I walked around the on the 54 acres which is the Tribal headquarters. It's undeveloped, with the exception of the Community Services Center. While walking around, I attempted to visualize the Tribe's planned health clinic, housing development, and permanent administrative buildings. I wonder what the Tribe will do in enhancing the local economy here in the West Valley. This question, only the Tribal Council can answer.

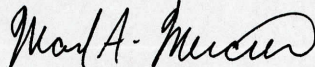
I do know this. Without the passage of Public Laws 98 - 165 and 100 - 425, I wouldn't have to ponder any of these things. I find it overwhelming how the years spent dealing with these two pieces of legislation will drastically alter the course of history for everyone living in the West Valley area.

I don't know what your plans are for now, but, if you are open to suggestions, maybe there is something you can do beginning in 1996. I hope you will take a vacation. I hope you can come to Grand Ronde for a visit, we have a lot to show you.

In closing, this is on a personal note. I really don't know what my life would be if I wasn't in this position. No matter. The times I got to meet with you are ones I'll cherish the rest of my life. To many people, you have been an inspiration. You have been to me! **Thank you so much for all you have done for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.**

We wish you and your family the best.

Sincerely,



Mark Mercier,  
Tribal Chairman