

LES AUCOIN  
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

August 14, 1980

Dear Colleagues:

On August 18, the House will consider on its suspension calendar, H.R. 7267, a bill I introduced to re-establish a reservation for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz in northwest Oregon. I am writing to urge your support.

This bill could have been controversial, but it is not. Instead, it enjoys widespread support in Oregon, and faces no fundamental opposition anywhere. The reason: It culminates five years of careful — at times, painful — negotiation and compromise by all parties concerned.

Because of legislation which I authored and Congress enacted into law in 1977, the process toward re-establishing a reservation for the Siletz people has been orderly, constructive and participatory. The process also has been successful. Not only have short-term issues been resolved, so have long-term issues, including the question of superior hunting and fishing rights and the management of fish and wildlife resources.

This bill grants no special rights. It merely rights a past wrong. That wrong was termination of a small tribe whose people were ill-prepared to deal with the society into which they suddenly found themselves thrust.

Due to their own determination, they rebuilt their tribe and resurrected their identity. Congress, in acting in 1977, only recognized what was already fact.

The action proposed in H.R. 7267 speaks to the final tool to be placed in the hands of a tribe that asks only for a chance to help itself, not for special privilege. That tool is a small reservation that will serve as an economic base for the Siletz people — 3630 acres of timberland to manage on a sustained yield basis. The reservation also embodies lands sacred to the Siletz. These lands will be placed in trust for use by the Siletz by effecting a transfer from other federal lands. No costs will be incurred by the Federal government to purchase land. Benefits will accrue to the Siletz and, both directly and indirectly, to the non-Indian communities surrounding the reservation.

H.R. 7267 completes a task — the first task I undertook upon coming to the Congress. It represents a thoughtful approach, a problem-solving approach to difficult issues. It reaffirms that difficult issues can be settled through compromise.

H.R. 7267 deserves your support, and I hope it will have it.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les Aucoin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

LES AUCOIN  
Member of Congress

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