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The Honorable Chairwoman Greggerson and Vice-Chair Mike Pellicciotti

State Government, Tribal Relations and Elections Committee

Good day. My name is Patricia Whitefoot and I've lived primarily in eastern Washington in **White Swan on the Yakama Reservation**. As a citizen of the **Yakama Nation**, my family has deeply embedded roots in the vast Columbia River Basin.

As a citizen, this is to state my support of **2SSB 5287, ensuring accurate redistricting**. Further, this is to also support my **nephew, who has been incarcerated in western Washington for several years** and to ensure his residency is properly represented with the **Census Count 2020**. As a Yakama Nation citizen, he has lifelong ancestral roots and residence on the Yakama Reservation in eastern Washington. Further, his children, mother and brothers and sister continue to reside on or near the Yakama Reservation.

Further, In 2010, the Redistricting Commission changed the **Yakama Nation residence** on the Yakama Reservation by splitting the reservation in half. Instead of solely being in the 15th Legislative District as previously established, some residents were maintained and the rest were redistricted to the 14th Legislative District. This was counter to the Redistricting Commissions policy that *"the district lines must coincide with **boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas** recognized as **"communities of interest"**; and be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact territory. The Commission's lines must provide **fair and effective representation and encourage electoral competition**. The Commission cannot draw lines that purposely favor or **discriminate against any political party or group**".*

With planning underway for Census 2020, it's critical that the legislator and the many stakeholders promote fair and effective representation that adequately considers the last known residency of the citizens.

I appreciate the Committee for considering my written statement to promote justice and equitable representation of our tribal citizens and community members in their ancestral residence or communities of interest.

With Gratitude:

Patricia Whitefoot