



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**

In the Matter of Proclaiming)
November as National Native)
American Heritage Month)
in Benton County) **PROCLAMATION NO. P2024-022**

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month commemoration grew out of an almost century-long, multi-state campaign to designate a day to honor peoples then known as American Indians, led by Indian rights activists in New York State. In 1990, the US Congress passed, and the President signed, a joint resolution declaring November as National Native American Heritage month. The original joint resolution recognized Native Americans as the first and original nations and communities that resided in what we now know as the United States; and

This is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation; and

Additionally, in 2009, Congress passed, and the President signed, legislation establishing the Friday following Thanksgiving as Native American Indian Heritage day; and

Benton County is home to Kalapuya and Alsea tribes, who now belong to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. The Confederations are two of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes that call lands in Oregon home. Several additional tribes continue to seek federal recognition, including the Chinookan peoples; and

Last month, President Biden formally apologized to victims of the US government’s 150-year policy of forcible removal of Native American children from their families to government boarding schools. The schools were intended to wipe out Native culture and language and provide basic and vocational education. Children were brutally treated or neglected at many boarding schools, leading to great trauma and many deaths. The President’s apology is the first step toward healing; and

As we celebrate Native American Heritage Month this November, we honor the history of resiliency and survival of indigenous Americans through the ravages of federal Indian policy and honor the ongoing stewardship and deep relationship between the land and people indigenous to this place we now call Benton County. Despite the settlement of these lands, this was and will remain the home of the Kalapuya and Alsea Tribes. We recognize the pre-existing and continued sovereignty of the tribes across our nation, as well as across our county. We express gratitude to the Native American communities that have continued to share knowledge and perspectives on how we care for, impact, and protect the lands we live on and the communities that came before us.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that November is National Native American Heritage Month in Benton County.

Adopted this 5th day of November, 2024.

Signed this 5th day of November, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair



Pat Malone, Commissioner