



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

Federal Lobbyist Services

Department of Communications

46411 Timíne Way

Pendleton, Oregon 97801

541- 276-3165

Ctuir.org

Issued: November 2, 2023

Due: November 28, 2023, by 4:00 pm (Pacific Standard Time)

Via email to: KaeleenMcGuire@ctuir.org

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is soliciting proposals for a professional lobbying service in the United States Capitol to advise and assist the CTUIR to achieve the purpose of its Constitution and Bylaws and established congressional priorities.

It is anticipated that the delivery of services under the contract will begin on January 1, 2024.

INTRODUCTION

The CTUIR is a federally recognized Indian tribe, with a reservation in Northeast Oregon and ceded, aboriginal, and usual and accustomed areas in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and other Northwest states. In 1855, representatives of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes – negotiated and signed the Treaty of 1855 with the United States. The Treaty is a contract between sovereigns and is “the supreme Law of the Land” under the United States Constitution. In the Treaty the CTUIR ceded 6.4 million acres of its aboriginal land to the federal government in exchange for a Reservation homeland for the “exclusive use” of the 3 Tribes, and the right to fish at usual and accustomed fishing sites, and to hunt, gather traditional foods and medicines and graze cattle on “unclaimed” land outside of the Reservation. A paramount objective in the Treaty was protecting and maintaining our tribal First Foods—water, fish, big game, roots, berries, and other plants and the habitats and environmental conditions that support and sustain them, then, now, and forever. This remains a paramount objective of the CTUIR as we have a reciprocal responsibility to respectfully care for, harvest, share, and consume traditional foods, or the foods may be lost.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CTUIR: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (BOT) was established by the CTUIR Constitution adopted in 1949 as the governing body of the CTUIR. The BOT is both authorized and charged with exerting the Tribes' sovereign authority to protect the rights reserved by the Treaty of 1855, to promote the interests of the members and residents of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and to exercise its authority to promote, enhance and achieve the maximum degree of self-government, self-sufficiency, and self-determination in all Tribal affairs. The BOT is elected every two years by the voting membership, our General Council. Our BOT chair presides over the Board, which consists of eight additional members (nine members total). The BOT enacts Tribal law, approves Tribal budgets, and establishes Tribal policy. The BOT conducts business meetings twice monthly, in addition to numerous work sessions with staff and special meetings with Tribal commissions and committees as well as outside governments, individuals and organizations.

SCOPE OF WORK

The successful proposal will, in accordance with the highest legal, ethical, and professional standards, provide federal lobbying services including, but not limited to:

1. Lobby the United States federal government and advocate within Congress, federal departments and agencies, and other organizations as necessary to pursue the CTUIR's priorities, interests, and objectives.
2. Proactively identify, monitor, and analyze legislative and administrative developments that may impact the CTUIR issue areas, including, but not limited to First Foods, Treaty Rights, water rights, health care, other legal rights, cultural resources, cultural sites, ancestral remains, economic development, community security, and Tribal programs and services, and its government-to-government relationship with the United States.
3. Advise CTUIR on trends and history of initiatives and identifying and prioritizing challenges and opportunities under consideration by the federal government.
4. Assist CTUIR staff and policy representatives in developing and implementing the CTUIR's federal legislative priorities and strategies.
5. Assist in drafting appropriate and necessary responses to pending legislation, regulatory notices, or administrative actions in a timely, proactive manner.
6. Preparing CTUIR representatives to lobby members of Congress and testify before congressional committees regarding CTUIR legislative priorities.
7. Assist the CTUIR in maintaining and establishing necessary and appropriate relationships with elected leaders, appointed and career officials that will advance the CTUIR's federal agenda and protect its interests.
8. Work and collaborate with CTUIR Legislative Affairs Manager, Office of the Executive Director, and key staff and Oregon and Washington State lobbying team on all matters which may involve CTUIR and its interests.
9. Provide weekly informative and relevant legislative reports to the BOT, Office of the Executive Director, and Legislative Affairs Manager on significant issues that may affect CTUIR.
10. Provide timely telephone or email updates with designated staff, create written reports regarding lobbying activities performed, and provide applicable reports during the legislative session to ensure the CTUIR's objectives are being effectively met.
11. Provide timely political and campaign contribution recommendations to the CTUIR.

ELEMENTS OF PROPOSAL

A proposal shall include the following essential elements:

1. Introduction of the firm including overall qualifications and capabilities of providing lobbying services.
2. Name of individual(s) that will serve as the primary contact to the CTUIR and who will be responsible for the performance of any work assigned including all contact information.
3. Detailed biographies and summary of the relevant experience of each person that may interact with the CTUIR in performing requested services, including billing rates and expected level of participation.
4. Description of the services provided to tribal or other clients over the last five years,

- including examples of successful results as well as unsuccessful results.
5. Narrative discussing strategy on how best to work within the current Presidential Administration and the Congress.
 6. Description of deliverables to the client and frequency of such deliverables.
 7. List of tribal clients and any potential conflicts with CTUIR positions.
 8. Terms and cost of services, including a description of your firm's billing procedures, expenses, etc.
 9. **Three** references from current or former clients, including tribal clients.
 10. Verification of licenses or good standing if a law firm and where the personnel are licensed to practice.
 11. Verification of registration to lobby and list of all entities for which registrations have been filed in the last two years.

SELECTION CRITERIA (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

- Experience and demonstrated record of successful advocacy and representation of Native American tribal governments.
- Familiarity with Federal Indian Water Rights Settlement legislative processes and criteria, roles of Northwest Congressional delegation, legislative committees, Dept. of Interior, Indian Health Service, Office of Management and Budgets, and Administration, or demonstrated ability to quickly familiarize consultant(s) with same.
- Organizational expertise and experience, particularly as it relates to Native American tribes.
- Organization, presentation, and content of proposal.
- Cost proposal.
- Bipartisan representation.
- Strong References.
- Lack of conflicts with the CTUIR's priorities and positions.
- Native American preference.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION

Consultants are invited to submit electronic copies of their written proposal no later than: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

CTUIR

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