



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

April 23, 2024

Sent via Electronic Mail

Hon. Richard Durbin
United States Senator
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Lindsey Graham
United States Senator
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support For Confirmation Of Rebecca Pennell As United States District Court
Judge For The Eastern District of Washington**

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Graham,

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation ("Yakama Nation"), I write to express the Yakama Nation's strong support for the confirmation of Judge Rebecca Pennell as a District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. Judge Pennell has the federal Indian law background and experience to excel as a federal judge in our Eastern District that includes millions of acres of Indian Country. More importantly she has the heart to undertake these duties with a humility and compassion that will make the Yakama Nation and our Eastern District proud.

The Yakama Nation's legal team is well versed on Judge Pennell's work as a federal public defender representing enrolled Yakama Members in federal cases implicating treaty rights. Throughout that representation, Judge Pennell consistently demonstrated the strength of her advocacy skills on federal Indian law issues, founded upon her diligence, discipline, and hard work. As a state court appellate judge, Judge Pennell has remained an active participant in our local legal community, providing mentorship and lending her voice to support Yakama Nation and other enrolled Indian students and federal Indian law practitioners to achieve their professional goals.

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington is one of the most active courts for federal Indian law issues in the United States. It will be well served by having the knowledge and experience of a federal Indian law expert among its ranks. The Yakama Nation recommends and supports Judge Pennell's confirmation to the federal judiciary without reservation.

Sincerely,

Christopher F. Wallace 4/23/24

401 Gerald Lewis, Chairman
Yakama Nation Tribal Council