

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 10  
HB 16

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO:  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FOR HB 16**

**BY: JOE MCDONALD  
PRESIDENT OF SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE  
JANUARY 10, 2005**

DEAR CHAIRPERSON GALVIN-HALCRO  
AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

I AM JOE MCDONALD, PRESIDENT OF SALISH KOOTENAI  
COLLEGE ON THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ME AND MY  
COLLEAGUES TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE  
OF H.B. 16. I ALSO EXTEND MY THANKS TO REPRESENTATIVE RICK  
RIPLEY FOR SPONSORING THIS LEGISLATION.

IN THE PAST, THIS LEGISLATION HAS HAD BROAD SUPPORT  
FROM BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS. I FEEL IT IS A NON-  
PARTISAN ISSUE. IT IS AN ISSUE OF MONTANA RESIDENT ACCESS TO  
HIGHER EDUCATION. IN SUPPORT OF THIS, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT  
MONTANA'S TRIBAL COLLEGES.

THERE IS A TRIBAL COLLEGE ON EACH OF MONTANA'S SEVEN  
RESERVATIONS. THESE COLLEGES WERE ESTABLISHED TO HELP THE  
TRIBES' ADDRESS THEIR MANPOWER NEEDS, HELP THE TRIBES  
MAINTAIN THEIR CULTURE, AND PROVIDE A POST SECONDARY  
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIAN PEOPLE LIVING ON THE

RESERVATIONS. THEY HAVE ALL OPENED THEIR DOORS TO THEIR NON-INDIAN NEIGHBORS.

THE COLLEGES ARE ACCREDITED BY THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, THE SAME AS ALL OF THE UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ARE. ALMOST ALL OF THE CREDITS EARNED AT THE TRIBAL COLLEGES ARE FULLY TRANSFERABLE TO THE UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AS WELL AS TO ANY OTHER ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN AMERICA.

STUDENTS PLANNING TO COMPLETE BACCALAUREATE DEGREES USUALLY TRANSFER TO A UNIT OF THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. THUS FAR THEY HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL TRANSFERRING MOST OF THE SKC STUDENTS THAT MOVE INTO ONE OF SKC'S FIVE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SOME GO TO UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

IN GENERAL THE TRIBAL COLLEGES OFFER COURSES OF STUDY RESULTING IN CERTIFICATES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES. SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE OFFERS FIVE BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

THE TRIBAL COLLEGES CONSIDER THEMSELVES INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND NOT PRIVATE COLLEGES. THEIR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS ARE EITHER ELECTED OR ARE APPOINTED BY ELECTED TRIBAL COUNCILS. THE COLLEGES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN

OPEN ADMISSION AND KEEP COST OF ATTENDANCE RELATIVELY LOW.

THE BASE FUNDING FOR TRIBAL COLLEGES COMES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE TRIBALLY CONTROLLED COLLEGE ACT (TCCA). THE FEDERAL DISTRIBUTION TO EACH TRIBAL COLLEGE IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS ATTENDING A TRIBAL COLLEGE FULL-TIME EACH YEAR. TRIBAL COLLEGES RECEIVE NO FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT TRIBAL MEMBERS. THESE STUDENTS ARE REFERRED TO AS "NON-BENEFICIARY" STUDENTS SINCE THEY DO NOT GENERATE ANY TCCA SUPPORT.

THE NON-BENEFICIARY ISSUE IS A MATTER THAT DEEPLY AFFECTS THE FINANCIAL STATUS AND ABILITY OF SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE TO DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO OUR STUDENTS, WHETHER THEY ARE INDIAN OR NON-INDIAN. THIS ISSUE HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT ON SKC, AND IS DRIVEN IN A LARGE PART BY THE COMPOSITION OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION POPULATION, WHERE NON-INDIANS OUTNUMBER INDIANS BY A RATIO GREATER THAN 4 TO 1.

SKC BRIEFED THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON JUNE 11, 2002, AT THAT TIME NON-BENEFICIARY FULL TIME ENROLLED STUDENTS (FTES) COMPRISED ONE-THIRD OF SKC'S STUDENT CREDIT GENERATION DURING 2000-2001 (250 FTES) AND 2001-2002 (282 FTES). UNFORTUNATELY, AS YOU KNOW, SKC HAS

RECEIVED LITTLE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE STATE AND NONE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF THESE STUDENTS.

ACCORDINGLY, SKC IS IN THE DIFFICULT POSITION OF HAVING TO SUBSIDIZE THE EDUCATION OF ONE THIRD OF ITS FTE STUDENT BODY. DURING 2002-2003, THIS SUBSIDY AMOUNTED TO \$3,724 PER NON-BENEFICIARY STUDENT JUST FOR INSTRUCTION, STUDENT SERVICES AND LIBRARY COSTS ALONE, NOT TO MENTION ALLOCATED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEPRECIATION, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR OTHER EXPENSES. ***CONSIDERING THAT SKC HAD 250 FTE RESIDENT NON-BENEFICIARIES DURING 2002-03, THIS PER CAPITA PARTIAL SUBSIDY OF \$3,724 TOTALED \$931,000; FOR 2003-2004 THE NON-BENEFICIARY PARTIAL SUBSIDY TOTALS APPROXIMATELY \$1,050,168.***

PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO COLLEGE FOR THE MANY PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING IN THE MANY ISOLATED AREAS THAT THE TRIBAL COLLEGES SERVE, AND IT DOES IT WITHOUT OBLIGATING THE STATE FOR ANY COSTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS BUILDINGS, LIBRARIES, LABORATORIES, AND EQUIPMENT.

AT SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE WE ARE TRYING TO HELP EVERYONE THAT COMES TO US. WE ARE TRYING TO BE A GOOD COLLEGE WITH OPEN ADMISSIONS. I AM NOT SURE HOW LONG WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITHOUT SOME HELP FROM THE STATE.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL PASS THIS OUT OF COMMITTEE AND HELP GET IT PASSED BY THE SENATE, THE LEGISLATURE AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME THIS TIME TO TESTIFY. WE HAVE SEVERAL OTHERS THAT WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY ALSO.

THANK YOU AGAIN.