

Exhibit No. 3  
Date 2-18-2013  
Bill No. SB 273

Senate  
State Administration Committee  
Honorable Ron Arthun, Chairman  
Dee Brown, Vice Chairman  
63<sup>rd</sup> Montana State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

February 18, 2013

RE: **SB 273 - "Revise Cultural and Historical Preservation Laws"**

Sponsor: Sharon Stewart-Peregoy

Chairman Arthun and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT" or "Tribes") support the passage of SB 273, a bill that revises cultural and historical preservation laws.

The policy of the CSKT Preservation Department is to protect cultural resources by identifying, evaluating, and protecting cultural, historic and archaeological resources. The policy also consists of regulating undertakings upon protected lands when they may result in changes in the character or use of such cultural resources.

By defining tribal property and laying out agency duties in consulting tribes, SB 273 encourages a spirit of cooperation and strengthens the tribal-state relationship. Further, this bill is in accord with policies of the CSKT Preservation Department.

As an example of how consultation can be successful for all relevant interests, in 2011, the CSKT Preservation Department worked with the Flathead National Forest and the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with site protection plans along Koocanusa Reservoir. They constructed a barrier of local stone to preserve a set of pictograph panels important to the tribal people. This strategy limited site-disturbing activities while preserving the site's integrity. It was also effective at deterring vandalism and archaeological site looting.

Although consultation may already occur in some situations, SB 273 eliminates a guessing game as to when consultation is appropriate between the Tribes and the State by providing for a consultation process. These measures, as they concern the integrity of irreplaceable cultural sites and artifacts, are long over due. This added layer protects both Tribes and the State by preventing and protecting against inadvertent damages to cultural resources. The CSKT support SB 273 and ask that this committee give SB 273 a due pass. Thank you.

Shane Morigeau  
CSKT Tribal Lobbyist