

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-100

Resolution Directing a Process to Rename the Sauvie Island Bridge to Honor the Island's Native American History and Communities.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Sauvie Island has been home to the Chinook people, providing safety and sustainability for more than 2,000 Indigenous people and 15 villages until colonization.
- B. When arriving, white settlers brought with them violence, illness, and a capitalist mindset, forcibly taking, remapping, naming, and renaming swaths of Indigenous land. Indigenous communities have always resisted the colonial agenda by finding ways to protect their culture and fend off erasure. This continues today as Indigenous communities actively reclaim jurisdiction, space, language, and history.
- C. There is a painful loss of history and continued harm when traditional names, language, and communities are replaced and never restored or repaired. Indigenous place names are powerful vehicles for narrating history and inscribing the landscape with meaning.
- D. It is critical to maintain connections between people and the place that has always been their home, which were compromised by assimilation and erasure. By maintaining the current name of the bridge, named after a European dairy farmer who capitalized on the loss of Indigenous life, we are continuing to participate in an act of erasure.
- E. With a new name, we can provoke a critical awareness of Indigenous history and culture by recognizing the connection between language and land while honoring the Indigenous communities who have always been here.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To support the recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI) to rename the Sauvie Island Bridge to honor Native American communities whose traditional home includes the Island.
- 2. To direct the Tribal Affairs Advisor in the Office of Government Relations to establish a community engagement process to work with Sauvie Island residents, appropriate community-based organizations, and Tribal communities to identify culturally significant name options for the bridge.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2022.



Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Courtney Lords*
Courtney Lords, Senior Assistant County Attorney