

**From:** [BERSIN Ron A \\* OGEC](#)  
**To:** [WEEDN Hayley \\* OGEC](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Gift/Honorarium  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 03, 2018 9:14:10 AM

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Please respond. Thanks

*Ronald A. Bersin*

Executive Director  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission  
(503) 378-5105

\*\*\*The Oregon Government Ethics Commission believes your comments are important to our success. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to participate in a brief survey. [Click here to access customer survey.](#)

**From:** tfer2@aol.com [mailto:tfer2@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 02, 2018 3:22 PM  
**To:** ISAAK Misha \* GOV <Misha.ISAAK@oregon.gov>; dexter.johnson@oregonlegislature.gov; BERSIN Ron A \* OGEC <Ron.A.Bersin@oregon.gov>; jshurts@nwcouncil.org; scrow@nwcouncil.org  
**Cc:** HUTCHINGS Laura \* GOV <Laura.HUTCHINGS@oregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Gift/Honorarium

January 2, 2018

Mischa Isaak - Governor's Tribal Affairs Policy Advisor  
Dexter Johnson - Legislative Chief Counsel  
Steve Crow - Executive Director, NWPCC  
John Shurts - NWPCC General Counsel  
Ron Bersin - Executive Director, Oregon Ethics Commission

Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of an issue that needs to be addressed, and to seek your advice on how to proceed.

On December 31 I received a package from the Board of Directors of Confederated Tribes of Umatilla containing a Pendleton blanket along with a card signed by all nine members of the CTUIR Board.

As you all know, the bestowing of gifts is a deeply rooted part of Native American Culture, in meaning, far greater than the material value of the item given, particularly if the gift is smoked or fresh salmon, a handmade article, a "first foods" item like dried camas, huckleberry or medicinal plants, or a blanket.

Receipt of this item puts me in a potentially awkward position since acceptance of the item may be considered a violation of ethics regulations for both the Legislative and Executive Branch and may also constitute a violation of ethics rules of NWPCC.

Return of the item to the Board of CTUIR may be considered an insult, or may be construed as the application of "public official" status/standards to members of a sovereign nation.

The value of the item is \$249.00, as evidenced by a tag attached to the article. It was given by all nine CTUIR Board members. The value of the gift (per giver) is \$27.67.

Do I

1. Return the gift and accept the consequences of its return?
2. Accept the gift and retain documentation of the value per giver (\$27.67)?
3. Accept the gift on behalf of a third party such as Oregon Capitol Foundation, Oregon Historical Society or other non-profit entity?
4. Other options?

Please advise me as soon as possible.

Ted Ferrioli  
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