VICTOR ATIYEH GOVERNOR 1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT & TRADE

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The Honorable Sidney Yates Chairman Subcommittee on Interior B-308, Kayburn Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Yates,

You have before your committee many decisions to make, one of which is of particular interest to me. That one is the request to earmark \$7 million dollars toward the construction of an Oregon Trail Interpretive Center located on the Indian Reservation in Northeast Oregon.

For many historical, economic and political reasons the great migration of 1843 on the Oregon Trail---one hundred and fifty years ago---was a dramatically significant event in the life of this country. This leap from east to west established and cemented America's uncertain claim to the Northwest Territory.

Many states, along with Oregon, are now celebrating that event. Four interpretive centers are the focal points to help us all understand the full meaning of that journey, three of which have been completed. The fourth on the Umatilla Indian Reservation will become a reality with your help.

The tribe has raised \$4 million dollars in commitments and the non-Indian community has generously come forward as well. The earmarking of \$7 million dollars by your committee will assure the completion of the last center.

Chairman Yates, I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and positive action on our request before you.

Sincerel Victor Atiyeh

CC: Jill Thorne