

**Mathew K.M. Tomaskin  
Legislative Liaison  
Yakama Nation  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948**

**1. I am ku tum xun, my English name is Mathew K.M. Tomaskin, according to your maps, I live in the 3102 precinct, 15th LD, and 4th CD and as an enrolled Citizen of the Yakama Nation, I would like to welcome you to the Ceded Territory of the Yakama Nation.**

**2. As a citizen of the Yakama Nation, we have lived and sustained ourselves on this area of the earth since time immemorial, and we pre date the state of Washington and even the United States, we entered into a peace treaty on June 9, 1855, in signing this treaty we ceded 10.5 million acres to live on our current reservation of 1.4 million acres.**

**3. In 1924, we were granted citizenship to the United States and of the State of Washington, and with granting citizenship the right to vote in General Elections, even though our people served in the military at a higher rate per capita of any other ethnic group, since we signed our peace treaty.**

**4. We have never had the chance to seriously participate in local Congressional or Legislative District politics; to us, this means we do not have representation.**

**5. I am here to urge the commission to 1) draw a legislative district in Yakima County that includes a majority of people of color and 2) draw a Congressional district that includes Yakima and Tri-Cities.**

**6. One in two Yakima county residents is a person of color. Our elected representatives should reflect our diversity. However, under the current system, it is very unlikely a person from the Yakama Nation would have a chance to be elected.**

**7. The Yakama Nation supports creating a Congressional District in Central WA that includes Yakima and Tri-Cities.**

**8. We also support creating the new 10th Congressional District in south King County that is a majority of people of color.**

**9. We also support creating a Yakima legislative district that is a majority of people of color.**

**10. This will help rectify the current exclusion of the Yakama Nation people and other people of color, from the legislative process.**

**Thank you**