

Dear House of Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Beth Hartwell. I am writing in support of H.R. 5444 the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

I am honored to have been to be told the story of a friend's experience in boarding school. I respect the vulnerability in her sharing, and I will never forget the wounding and sorrow of such a life in young age. I understand my privilege, due to stories like hers, and will speak as an ally in any situation. Much harm has been done by our systems, and especially by the mission schools, and we must be vulnerable now ourselves, and ask forgiveness in broader than individual ways, find Reconciliation, and fund healing and opportunities for our indigenous Sisters and Brothers. Their healing will be our salvation in this broken world.

Much gratitude to you, the Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States,

It is past time, but now will work. We need to clean up so that we might say "Never Again."

~Beth Hartwell, Hood River, Oregon.