

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4644, by Representatives Kretz and Maycumber

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Mel Tonasket is a member of the Colville Business
2 Council, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the
3 Colville Indian Reservation, located in north central Washington; and

4 WHEREAS, At around 1.3 million acres, the Confederated Tribes of
5 Colville is the second largest reservation in the state and one of
6 the largest employers in Okanogan and Ferry counties; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 1970, Mr. Tonasket has served as an elected
8 official in various leadership positions for the Colville Tribes,
9 including Chairman and Vice Chairman; and

10 WHEREAS, From 1973 to 1976, Mr. Tonasket served as the President
11 of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) where he led the
12 Colville Tribes' successful efforts against termination and mobilized
13 support for major tribal legislation, including the Indian Health
14 Care Improvement Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Tonasket was a member of the American Indian Policy
16 Review Commission for two years and has represented the United States
17 Tribal Governments at the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and at
18 the Inter-American Indigenous Conference in Brazil; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Tonasket has spent his entire adult life working to
20 increase opportunities and resources for the Colville Tribes; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Tonasket has a passion for encouraging, teaching,
22 and instilling the Colville Tribes' unique heritage into the youth of
23 the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation; and

