

Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 7581 Yurok Lands Act of 2022

My name is Yolanda Lee Ann Latham. I am a lineal descendant of the Redwood Creek Tribe known as Chilula, Hoil'kut from Humboldt County, California. I am writing out of concern about the H.R. 7581 Yurok Lands Act of 2022 and renaming Bald Hills Road as the Yurok Scenic Byway.

There has been no consultation or engagement of the Redwood Creek – Chilula, Hoil'kut tribal descendants on the changes at Bald Hills Road nor the Co-Management of the Redwood National Forest. The Redwood National Forest is home to several tribes, and this includes Redwood Creek Tribe – Chilula, Hoil'kut. There are two archeological sites in the Redwood National Forest that are spiritually and culturally relevant to me and my people. Two of importance are Xosunnaku, and Noledin (waterfall place).

The Redwood Creek Watershed and Bald Hills region has always been the aboriginal territory of the Redwood Creek Indians. Used for daily living, hunting, and gathering. This is well documented throughout history in multiple publications and archives. Areas that we all still use to this day.

The Redwood Creek Tribe – Chilula, Hoil'kut people have been disenfranchised throughout history by the State of California and the United States Federal Government. I hope that your committee demonstrates inclusiveness, and equity for the Redwood Creek Tribe to carve out our sacred spaces that are culturally, spiritually and aboriginal to my people.

Although we are currently a non-federally recognized tribe, we may at some point in the future go through the acknowledgement process and become recognized in the future. So, I ask that the committee on natural resources uphold its trust responsibility to all Indians and help us protect our sacred lands.