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**Written Statement Submitted by The Pew Charitable Trusts to the
House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands**

**For the record of the legislative hearing held on September 14, 2022
Regarding H.R. 6032 - Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act**

The Pew Charitable Trusts seeks to preserve ecologically and culturally significant U.S. public lands and rivers by working collaboratively with Tribes and stakeholders such as local businesses, policymakers, and sportsmen to develop collaborative solutions that protect landscapes and local communities. Congressional legislation is an important component of this work.

Pew supports the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (H.R. 6032), legislation that would transfer administrative jurisdiction of Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam land from the US Department of Agriculture to the US Department of Interior, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe. The land in California —1,031 acres located in the ancestral territory of the Karuk Tribe—would continue to be used for traditional and customary uses of the Tribe.

The Senate version of the legislation (S. 4439) includes a provision stating that the Chief of the Forest Service shall continue to manage the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that flows through the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam lands and would allow continued access by the Forest Service. It would also facilitate a memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Karuk Tribe, establishing mutual goals for the protection and enhancement of the Wild and Scenic Klamath and Salmon Rivers. We support the inclusion of these provisions in the House bill to provide greater clarity on congressional intent pertaining to Wild and Scenic Rivers management.

Thank you for the Subcommittee’s consideration of Pew’s position on this bill. We look forward to continued collaboration as this legislation moves through Congress. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to the contacts below with questions.

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