

Michael & Melinda Stearns



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BY:

October 23, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for Legislative Proposal: The Repatriation of Katimiin and Aameekyáaraam, Karuk Sacred Sites

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support. This legislative proposal would reduce barriers to the management and use of a portion of the Karuk Tribe's ancestral territory by the Karuk people.

The Karuk people have lived and taken care of this place since the beginning of time. This place is important to their lives and spiritual practices. The natural resources here are a vital and enduring part of their culture.

Although the Karuk Tribe's ancestral territory is over a million acres, most of their territory managed by national forests. We believe that the Karuk people's traditional management practices and their cultural values should be integrated into land management decisions.

We have lived on our property here in Somes Bar since 1994 and are located nearly in the center of this legislative proposal. We support the Karuk Tribe's efforts to ensure the repatriation and management of their spiritual sites and the lands surrounding them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stearns".

Michael Stearns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melinda Stearns".

Melinda Stearns