



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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November 3, 2020

U.S. Representative Jared Huffman
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter of Support for Legislative Proposal: The Repatriation of Katimiin and Aamekyáaraam, Karuk Sacred Sites

Congressman:

On behalf of Humboldt County, please accept this letter of support. This legislative proposal would right a wrong that has prevented Karuk people from free and unfettered access to their most sacred place.

The Karuk people have lived and conducted ceremonies at Katimiin and Aamekyáaraam since the beginning of time. The Karuk Tribe's historic and present-day government to government relations with the United States is due in large part to their continued presence and traditional and customary uses of Katimiin, Aamekyáaraam, and several other ceremonial areas. These areas are integral to understanding Karuk cosmology and creation as well as the perpetuation of Karuk customs and culture. Ceremonial leaders conduct ceremonies and rites regardless of the occupation of these lands by others.

Natural resource utilization and management remains a vital part of Karuk culture. The harvest of salmon, acorns, deer, elk, mushrooms, and other natural products still serve as subsistence for many tribal families while the act of hunting, gathering, managing, and processing these natural food products help define the Karuk Tribe's cultural identity.

The Karuk Tribe's aboriginal territory encompasses over 1.48 million acres of Northern California and Southern Oregon. Currently, 95% of Karuk aboriginal territory is managed by the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests. As a result, the Tribe struggles to ensure that traditional management practices and Karuk cultural values are integrated into management decisions.

We support the Karuk Tribe's efforts to ensure the repatriation and management of Katimiin and Aamekyáaraam so their Tribal ceremonial leaders and traditional practitioners will have access to these lands for traditional and customary uses in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Estelle Fennell, Chair
County of Humboldt