



YUROK TRIBE

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August 3, 2022

Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairwoman Murkowski
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for Karuk Lands Bill and Tribal Land Restoration

Chairman and Vice Chairwoman,

The Yurok Tribe submits this letter to support the Katimiñ and Ameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (H.R. 6032), also known as the Karuk Lands Bill. This Bill was created to restore land to the Karuk Tribe and recognize the Karuk Tribe's role and responsibility in managing federal lands within its territory. By restoring these lands to the Karuk Tribe, who were the original stewards of such lands, the Karuk Tribe can exercise its tribal sovereignty and traditional practices without interruption. We extend our support to the Karuk Tribe through this Bill.

Indeed, the Yurok Tribe supports tribal land restoration for all tribes and believe that tribes should support each other's land restoration efforts. Like the Karuk Tribe, we introduced the Yurok Lands Act (H.R. 7581). Our Bill was created to reclaim our role as the original stewards of our land by revising our reservation boundary line to transfer more than one thousand acres of historically Yurok land back to our Tribe. The Karuk Lands Bill and Yurok Lands Act are important legislation and promote the overall goal of tribal land restoration.

Lastly, the Biden Administration supports our overall goal of tribal land restoration. The Biden Administration, for example, promised to "provide tribes with a greater role in the care and management of public lands that are of cultural significance to Tribal Nations." Likewise, the Department of the Interior has launched the Tribal Homelands Initiative which increases opportunities for tribes to participate in federal lands management. We urge you to quickly take up and pass the Karuk Lands Bill and continue to work toward this shared goal of tribal land restoration.

Sincerely,


Joseph L. James
Chairman
Yurok Tribe

CC: Chairman Attebery, Karuk Tribe
Sen. Feinstein
Sen. Padilla
Rep. Huffman