



# Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

May 24, 2021

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 Aameekyaaraam, Karuk Sacred Sites

Congressman Huffman:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Cher-Ae heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria). 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 Aameekyaaraam since time immemorial. 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, Aameekyaaraam, and 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 other people.

Natural resource use 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.

The Trinidad Rancheria supports the Karuk Tribe's efforts to ensure the repatriation and management of Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam so their Tribal ceremonial leaders and traditional practitioners will have access to these lands for traditional and customary uses in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Garth Sundberg  
NCTCA Chairman