

September 13, 2022

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez, Chair  
Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jay Obernolte, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Legislative Hearing: H.R. 6032, Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act**

Dear Chair Leger Fernandez and Ranking Member Obernolte:

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community and conservation minded businesses, thank you for holding the September 14th legislative hearing to consider the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (H.R. 6032). We strongly support this legislation, which would take certain federal land located in Siskiyou County, California, and Humboldt County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe. The Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam land is located in the aboriginal territory of the Karuk Tribe and represents the center of the Karuk universe at the confluence of the Salmon River with the Klamath River. Restoring these unceded lands to the stewardship of the Karuk Tribe is a long overdue moral imperative.

Our organizations strongly supports the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (H.R. 6032), introduced by Representative Huffman. This legislation is an opportunity for the subcommittee to immediately act to address issues that were raised in the March 3, 2022 hearing examining Tribal Co-Management of Public Lands. That hearing examined broad issues of Tribal land dispossession enacted by the U.S. government and the impact of that dispossession on federal land management practices. These impacts are evident on these lands along the Klamath and Salmon rivers.

The Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act would transfer administrative jurisdiction of the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam land (1,031 acres), from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of Interior to be held in trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe to be used for traditional and customary uses. This would re-establish the Karuk Tribe as the stewards of these lands for Tribal ceremonies, education, and cultural uses and will ensure that Tribal ceremonies can be conducted without interruption or interference.

The lands in this legislation are used for outdoor recreation—specifically whitewater paddling—but we understand and respect that when we pass through these sacred lands, we come as visitors to a place of deep spiritual and cultural significance to the Karuk people. We recognize that the World Renewal Ceremonies are central to the culture and identity of Karuk people. Our community supports the right of the Karuk Tribe to steward and manage these lands.

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community and conservation minded businesses, thank you again for holding this hearing. We strongly support the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act and ask you to move this bill through the Committee and to the House floor to re-establish the Karuk Tribe as the steward of their sacred lands.

Sincerely,



Louis Geltman  
Policy Director  
Outdoor Alliance



Shoren Brown  
Interim Executive Director  
The Conservation Alliance

Cc: Russell 'Buster' Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe  
Rep. Jared Huffman

## Our Organizations

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see [www.conservationalliance.com](http://www.conservationalliance.com).