



June 4, 2019

The Honorable Rick Larsen
U.S. House of Representatives
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
E-mail: Alexandra.Menardy@mail.house.gov

Re: Support for H.R. 2961, the Samish Indian Nation Land Reaffirmation Act

Dear Congressman Larsen:

I write to thank you for introducing HR 2961, the Samish Indian Nation Land Reaffirmation Act, and to express our support for H.R. 2961, which would reaffirm the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Regional Director's November 9, 2018 decision to take 6.7 acres of land owned by the Samish Indian Nation into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

H.R. 2961 will enable the Samish Indian Nation to move forward by finalizing the trust status of their land which will help them to preserve their culture; provide housing, health care, and education; and meet the many other needs of the Tribe's citizens.

The bill has the strong support of not only me, but many of the Tribe's other neighbors, including the City of Anacortes and Skagit County. The City of Anacortes, Skagit County, and the Samish Indian Nation have formed a close and cooperative working relationship since the Tribe was restored to federal recognition in 1996. I believe that reaffirming the Bureau of Indian Affairs' decision to take these lands into trust will greatly benefit the City of Anacortes and Skagit County through increased economic activity in partnership with the Tribe.

The Samish Indian Nation has built goodwill and trust with its neighbors, and I am proud to support the Samish Indian Nation in its efforts to establish a governing land base through the Land Reaffirmation Act.

In closing, thank you for your ongoing support of the communities and governments of the 40th District in Washington and the Samish Indian Nation.

Respectfully,

Representative Jeff Morris
40th Legislative District