

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Gallego for Mr. Darryl LaCounte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. You mention the informal interagency working group that already exists at the Department and how the STOP Act's creation of a formal interagency working group would thus be duplicative.
 - Do tribal nations/Native Hawaiian organizations currently have access to this informal working group?
 - Will the information exchanged in this internal group ever be shared with the broader public or Members of Congress?
 - Would you oppose the formalization—instead of the mere duplication—of this informal working group?
 - If so, why?
2. You acknowledge that tribal nations and Native Hawaiian organizations can request for the Department to aid them in repatriation requests at any time and maintain that the STOP Act's establishment of a tribal working group would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to this process.
 - Generally, how long does it take for the Department to respond to these requests? Further, how long does it take for a repatriation request to be “completed?”
 - Are there offices or staff members currently at the Department that work specifically on these requests?

Questions from Rep. Grijalva for Mr. Darryl LaCounte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. From your testimony, it appears as if the Department is in favor of an export declaration requirement. Would this export declaration requirement be in lieu of the export certification requirement, as outlined by the STOP Act?
 - If so, what oversight mechanisms would exist in this export declaration requirement that could prevent individuals from withholding details about how he/she acquired the specific tribal object? (Essentially, how does a self-submitted form prevent individuals from lying? Under the STOP Act, a certification system would.)
 - If an export declaration form reveals that a tribal cultural object had been obtained illegally, how would the Department or a specific tribal nation go about “blocking” its illicit export?
 - How much time would the Department or specific tribal nation/Native Hawaiian organization have to successfully accomplish this?
 - What resources would be available to tribal nations/Native Hawaiian organizations to block illegally-obtained objects under the export declaration system?

- You mention that an export declaration requirement would help analysts discern the market patterns of illegally-obtained tribal objects and thus help prevent future problematic exports. Would it not be better to halt illegal exports before they occur, rather than after the fact? An export certification system would help to block such exports before they could commence.

Questions for the Record by Republican Members

Questions from Rep. Bishop for Mr. Darryl LaCounte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

H.R. 1312

1. Does the 2006 cooperative management agreement, confirmed and authorized under section 5(e)(4), facilitate the removal of dams on the Klamath River?
2. If the Department has already recognized a tribe's governing documents, what additional benefit does Congress ratifying these documents provide?