



RESIGHINI RANCHERIA

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September 13, 2022

Honorable Jared Huffman
House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: H.R. 7581: Yurok Lands Act of 2022

Dear Congressman Huffman:

The Resighini Rancheria (Tribe) are Yurok people with the same shared culture and ancestral territory as the Yurok Tribe. Our reservation land is surrounded by the Yurok Reservation of the Yurok Tribe (see Attached map). but we are two separate federally recognized Tribes and stand on equal footing as sovereign Tribal nations. As you know, H.R. 7581 affects the interests of a number of Tribes who have expressed concerns and opposition to the bill as introduced in the previous Congress. Because of our circumstances, it has the greatest potential of impacting our Tribe. Consequently, we have had to be strong advocates for specific changes to the proposed legislation to ensure that our Tribe is treated by the federal government in an equal manner with the Yurok Tribe, and that our ability to exercise our rights of self-determination is not terminated or diminished by this bill. We must protect our Tribal interests, but we are also solution-focused and do not want to hinder the ability of another Tribe—the Yurok Tribe—to progress in their efforts toward their own self-determined future.

Our Tribal Council has previously proposed several key changes that are critical to removing opposition to H.R. 7581, and we were recently provided with a Discussion Draft (August 15, 2022) of a significantly modified version of the bill. We have reviewed the Discussion Draft, and the substantive changes made to H.R. 7581, and we understand that these changes will be included in an amendment in the nature of a substitute. We thank you, Congressman Huffman, for listening to our concerns and the concerns of other neighboring Tribes and believe this version of the bill addresses almost all our concerns.

However, we request one additional and very important modification to the Discussion Draft, which we feel is essential to removing our opposition. To ensure consistency with the existing Yurok Reservation, the definition of the term “revised Yurok Reservation” in Section 2(3) of H.R. 7581 and the Discussion Draft should be modified to add a reference to Section 2(c) of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (PL 100-580) of 1988. This minor modification would clarify that the bill adds additional lands to the existing Yurok Reservation and would preserve the definition

of the existing Yurok Reservation which surrounds the Resighini Rancheria.¹ This language is consistent with the intent of Congress and the Executive Branch when the reservation was established. We have also been informed by your staff that this is the intent of you and the Department of the Interior, and we believe the following modification will avoid potential confusion.

To clarify the intent of the bill to add lands to the existing Yurok Reservation, Section 2, subsection (3) of the Discussion Draft should be modified to include the underlined text:

“REVISED YUROK RESERVATION. -- The term “revised Yurok Reservation” means the land within the exterior boundary of the Yurok Reservation as defined in Section 2(c) of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (Public Law 100-580) and as revised to include the “proposed additional Yurok Lands” depicted on the map referenced in section 4(a), except land owned in fee by or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian Tribe other than the Yurok Tribe.”

We believe this clarification would ensure that our Tribe’s land and interests are protected and that it is consistent with the intent of your bill. We are simply asking for a it to be clearly represented in the language of the bill. We believe this request does nothing to inhibit the Yurok Tribe from significantly expanding their reservation lands within our shared Yurok ancestral territory.

For your reference, we provide the following table summarizing the Tribe’s requested modifications to H.R. 7581, how those modifications have been addressed in the Discussion Draft, and the remaining modification needed in order for the Tribe to remove opposition.

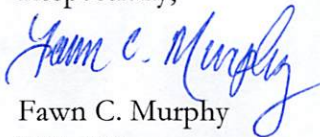
Modification Request to H.R. 7581	Discussion Draft (August 15, 2022)	Requested Modification
Section 2(3): Definition—Revised Yurok Reservation		
Modify Language	Revision Still Needed	REVISED YUROK RESERVATION. -- The term “revised Yurok Reservation” means the land within the exterior boundary of the Yurok Reservation <u>as defined in Section 2(c) of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (Public Law 100-580) and as revised to include the “proposed additional Yurok Lands” depicted on the map referenced</u> in section 4(a), except land owned in fee by or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian Tribe other than the Yurok Tribe.”

¹ Section 2(c) of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act incorporated the reservation definition in the Executive Order of October 16, 1891 (one mile in width on each side of the Klamath River, and extending from the present limits of the Hoopa Valley Reservation to the Pacific Ocean), which established the reservation land that was subsequently recognized and made the Yurok Reservation in the Settlement Act, and explicitly excludes the Resighini Rancheria.

Section 5: Tribal-Federal Partnerships for Federal Land and Resource Management		
Remove Section	Issue Addressed with Deletion	No further action
Section 7: Confirmation of Governing Body and Documents		
Remove Section	Issue Addressed with Deletion	No further action
Section 8: No Delegation of Federal Authority Over Non-Tribal Land or People		
Reword or Remove	Issue Addressed with Deletion	No further action
Section 9: No Additional Authority or Rights		
None	No Issue	None

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help us protect our rights and privileges as a federally recognized tribe. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Rocha, Executive Director at megan.rocha@resighinirancheria.com or 707-954-1173.

Respectfully,






Fawn C. Murphy
Tribal Chairperson

Enclosure

Resighini Rancheria in relation to the Yurok Reservation of the Yurok Tribe



Legend

-  Resighini Rancheria (Yurok People)
-  Yurok Reservation of the Yurok Tribe
-  Ancestral Territory of the Yurok People

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles



Resighini Rancheria

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community