

1. Good Afternoon. I want to start by welcoming our witnesses. Thank you for joining us today.
2. We have seven bills on our docket that are meant to uplift the economic development, recreational activities, public safety, and ultimately sovereignty of Tribal Nations. So let's get started in numerical order.
3. Our first bill is H.R. 6032, Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act introduced by our fellow committee member, Representative Jared Huffman from California.
4. The land in H.R. 6032 is traditionally known as the Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam. These lands are considered ceremonial areas and the sites of former villages. They are known to the Karuk tribe as the 'center of the world.'
5. Although the tribe continues to use these lands for ceremonies and fish harvesting, access to these sacred sites is not always guaranteed.
6. H.R. 6032 will resolve access issues for the Tribe by placing 1,031 acres of land in the Siskiyou and Humboldt counties into trust.
7. The second bill we will hear is H.R. 6964, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. It was introduced by our colleague Representative Marilyn Strickland from Washington.
8. This bill will provide authority for the Chehalis Tribe to extend their lease agreements to pursue its planned economic

development activities. This will enable the Tribe to develop supply chain infrastructure.

9. The third bill is H.R. 7581, Yurok Lands Act of 2022, also introduced by Representative Huffman.
10. This bill supports the Yurok Tribe's natural resource based economy by increasing the Tribe's role in federal land management and improving its reservation infrastructure.
11. For our hearing, we will consider the discussion draft ANS which removes sections 5, 7, 8, and 9 of the introduced legislation.
12. Next up is H.R. 8115, the Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act, introduced by our colleague Representative Doug LaMalfa from California.
13. This bill would amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to allow federally recognized Tribes to participate in the Act's purchasing and leasing program to expand opportunities for land acquisition. It is an important effort to provide parity for Tribes.
14. Next, we have H.R. 8286, to take certain federal land in the state of Washington into trust for the lower Elwa Klallam Tribe, introduced by our colleague Representative Derek Kilmer from Washington.
15. This bill would restore lands to the Tribe by placing them into trust. This will protect sacred and cultural lands, continue restoration efforts for the ecosystem, and uphold our trust and treaty obligations to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

16. The sixth bill is H.R. 8380, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-Eh-Nay Band Reservation Settlement Act of 2022, introduced by our colleague Representative Jesús G. “Chuy” García from Illinois.
17. H.R. 8380 will reaffirm the Nation’s ownership and jurisdiction over the 130 acres of land within the Reservation that the Nation has reacquired. It will extinguish the Nation’s title to the remainder of the original Shab-eh-nay Reservation and confirms ownership and title of the non-Indian individuals and governments occupying land within the Reservation.
18. Further, this bill will establish compensation for the wrongful taking of the 1,151 acres of land and allow the Nation to utilize monies to reacquire an additional 1,151 acres of land on or near the reservation.
19. Our last bill is H.R. 8387, the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act, introduced by Representative Dan Newhouse of Washington.
20. H.R. 8387 seeks to alleviate issues retaining and recruiting law enforcement. It would make tribal law enforcement officers acting under a 638 contract or compact eligible for certain federal benefit programs such as for death, retirement, and pension.
21. I look forward to hearing more on all the legislation before us.
22. I now recognize Ranking Member Obernolte for his opening statement.