



May 27, 2022

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples
House Committee on Natural Resources

RE: H.R. 6032, The Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act — SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Leger Fernández,

We write in support of H.R.6032, *The Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act*. This legislation would restore free and undisturbed access for the Karuk people to their sacred places by transferring ~1,000 acres along the Klamath River from the US Forest Service to the Department of the Interior to be held in trust for the Karuk Tribe. The land is currently part of a larger Cultural Management Area recognized for its significance to the Tribe. Called “Katimiîn” in the Karuk language, these 1,000 acres are the heart of the Karuk’s ancestral territory, “literally the center of the universe, a spiritual balance point for all of existence.” The Karuk people have lived and conducted ceremonies at Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam since the beginning of time. These areas are integral to Karuk cosmology and creation belief as well as the perpetuation of Karuk customs and culture.

Trout Unlimited has been working with the Karuk and other signatories to the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement for more than two decades to restore the Klamath River and its once-prolific runs of salmon and steelhead. Ensuring that these lands will be held in trust for the Karuk is consistent with the overall goal of renewing the Klamath’s ecological, cultural, and community values, and we are grateful to Rep. Huffman efforts to help us attain that goal while righting an historical wrong.

We support the Karuk Tribe’s efforts to ensure the repatriation and management of Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam so their ceremonial leaders, traditional practitioners and community members will have access to these lands for traditional and customary uses in perpetuity.

We urge you to schedule a hearing to consider and advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Johnson
California Director

CC: The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee
Congressman Jared Huffman

A mission to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.

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