

DATE: 10/23/2020

Name: Robert Blanchard



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BY:

RE: Letter of Support for Legislative Proposal: The Repatriation of Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam, Karuk Sacred Sites

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support. This legislative proposal would reduce barriers to the management and use of a portion the Karuk Tribe's aboriginal territory by Karuk people.

The Karuk people have lived and conducted ceremonies at Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam since the beginning of time. The Karuk Tribe's historic and present-day government to government relations with the United States is due in large part to their continued presence and traditional and customary uses of Katimiin, Aameekyaaraam, and several other ceremonial areas. These areas are integral to Karuk cosmology and the perpetuation of Karuk customs and culture. Ceremonial leaders conduct ceremonies and rites regardless of the occupation of these lands by others.

Natural resource utilization and management remains a vital part of Karuk culture. The harvest of salmon, acorns, deer, elk, mushrooms, and other natural products still serve as subsistence for many tribal families while the act of hunting, gathering, managing, and processing these natural food products help define and preserve the Karuk Tribe's cultural identity.

The Karuk Tribe's aboriginal territory encompasses over a million acres of Northern California and Southern Oregon. Currently, 97% of Karuk aboriginal territory is managed by the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests. As a result, the Tribe struggles to ensure that traditional management practices and Karuk cultural values are integrated into management decisions.

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

Sincerely,

Signature Robert L. Blanchard