



August 19, 2022

Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez
Chair, House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Leger Fernandez:

On behalf of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, we write to request a hearing in the House on the Katimiñ and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (S. 4439). The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition is a national alliance of more than 60 river protection organizations. Coalition member organizations urge Congress to advance this legislation that recognizes Indigenous sovereignty and the cultural significance of sacred lands and waters to Indigenous Peoples.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition strongly supports the Katimiñ and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act. This bill would return 1,031 acres of land along California's Klamath and Salmon Rivers to the Karuk Tribe. This land transfer will allow the Karuk Tribe to conduct World Renewal Ceremonies and other acts of religious and cultural significance without interruption or interference while maintaining Wild and Scenic River protections. We support the bill's provision to include the Tribe in the management and protection of the rivers within the returned lands.

We support the Katimiñ and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act and urge you to advance this important bill by scheduling a hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. K. Ronald".

Lisa Ronald, National Coordinator, Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition

On behalf of the following Wild and Scenic River Coalition member organizations:

Joshua Theurer, Associate Director, Project Design, Adventure Scientists, Bozeman, MT

Jack West, Policy and Advocacy Director, Alabama Rivers Alliance, Birmingham, AL

David Moryc, Senior Director of Wild and Scenic Rivers and Public Lands Policy, American Rivers, Washington, D.C.

Kevin Colburn, National Stewardship Director, American Whitewater, Cullowhee, North Carolina

Megan Fiske, Executive Director, Foothill Conservancy, Jackson, CA

Fred Akers, River Administrator, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Newtonville, NJ

Nicholas Nelson, Executive Director, Idaho Rivers United, Boise, ID

Richard Dodds, Chair, Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Committee, Stockton, NJ

Dr. Denielle Perry, Director of Free-flowing Rivers Lab, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

April Ingle, Policy Director, River Network, Boulder, CO

Joseph Callahan, President, Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Taunton, MA

Bill Napolitano, Administrator, Taunton River Stewardship Council, Taunton, MA

Maggie Johnston, Executive Director, Wild Alabama, Moulton, Alabama

CC Representative Jared Huffman