



September 13, 2022

Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, Chair
Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jay Obernolte, Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Leger Fernandez and Acting Ranking Member Obernolte:

On behalf of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, we thank you for scheduling the September 14 hearing on the Katimiîn and Aameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (H.R. 6032). We strongly express our collective support for this bill. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition is a national alliance of more than 60 river protection organizations. Coalition member organizations urge Congress to support and advance this legislation that recognizes Indigenous sovereignty and the cultural significance of sacred lands and waters to Indigenous Peoples.

The Katimiîn and Aameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act 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 that flow through the returned lands.

We urge you to support the Katimiîn and Aameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. K. Ronald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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, 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

Steven L. Evans, Rivers Director, CalWild, Sacramento, CA

Fred Akers, River Administrator, Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River, Newtonville, NJ

Charles Wolf Drimal, Deputy Director of Conservation, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, MT

Brian Jobson, Vice President, Foothill Conservancy, Jackson, CA

Jann Dorman, Executive Director, Friends of the River, Sacramento, CA

Monti Aguirre, Latin America Program Manager, International Rivers, Oakland, CA

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

Grant Werschull & Patty McCleary, Co-Executive Directors, Smith River Alliance, Crescent City, CA

Joseph Callahan, President, Taunton River Watershed Alliance, MA

Lindsey Wight, Executive Director, Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee, East Berkshire, VT

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