

For Immediate Release

Ruffey Rancheria is pleased to understand that H.R. 3535 “Ruffey Rancheria Act of 2017” has moved out of the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and will be scheduled for full House of Representatives vote in the near future.

Ruffey Rancheria was one of more than 40 Indian rancherias that suffered termination in 1961 and its 441-acre reservation was distributed to just four people -- a fraction off the original 57 tribal members its eligible membership. As with other terminated rancherias, the Department of the Interior distributed tribal assets to only a few members who supported termination and ignored other tribal members who had a due process right to be consulted regarding termination.

Based on these and other unfair practices, members of many terminated California Indian tribes sued the federal government in 1983, and ultimately prevailed in a class action lawsuit. A few of the tribes, like the Ruffey Rancheria, were not eligible for the class action due to legal technicalities. Ruffey Rancheria is one of the last remaining terminated rancherias that have not yet been restored to federally recognized status.

Because Congress terminated the tribe, only Congress can reinstate it.

To right this wrong, Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale), who is both Ruffey Rancheria’s congressional representative and the chair of the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, has sponsored legislation (H.R. 3535) to restore Ruffey Rancheria to its rightful status as a federally recognized Native American Tribe.

Since the legislation's introduction in July 2017, we have received constructive feedback on ways to improve the legislation, and we have worked closely with the Department of the Interior and other tribes (including the Karuk) on ways to amend it prior to passage. Together, we have sought to address all legitimate concerns about the bill and created a process through which the Secretary of the Interior will oversee the integrity and certify the tribe's enrollment process. Indeed, we have summarized our requested amendments to H.R. 3535 "Ruffey Rancheria Restoration of 2017" after engaging with all said tribes, including the Karuk Tribe.

Ruffey Rancheria seeks to be a good partner with the Federal government, State of California, Siskiyou County, and other California Indian Tribes. We are open to discuss with all partners their concerns and how we may all be able to work together as neighbors. We look forward to working with all members of Congress, to be open and transparent, and

For more information, you can visit our website at [www.ruffeyrancheria.org](http://www.ruffeyrancheria.org)

Thank you,