



April 3, 2018

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
United States Congress
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norma Torres
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
United States Congress
1329 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Redding Rancheria's Support For HR 3535, The Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2018

Dear Chairman LaMalfa and Ranking Member Torres,

As the Chairman of the Redding Rancheria in far Northern California, I am pleased and honored to express my Tribe's support for H.R. 3535 (as amended to exclude applicability to Shasta County), the Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2018 (the "Bill"), which will restore a neighboring Tribe deserving of regaining its former status as a federally-recognized Indian Tribe.

Because Redding Rancheria was itself once a federally terminated tribe, our people fully understand the emotional pain that accompanies the termination of federally recognized status and a governmental determination that one is no longer Indian, and also the financial and practical difficulties in regaining that status. The Redding Rancheria is proud of never having opposed another Indian Tribe's federal restoration. Although Redding Rancheria initially expressed concern to Chairman LaMalfa regarding the scope of Ruffey Rancheria's service area as written in an earlier draft of the Bill, I am pleased to report that Ruffey Rancheria's Chairman, Mr. Gomes, met with me like a good neighbor and listened to our concerns. As a result of that consultation, Ruffey Rancheria agreed to request an amendment that would expressly limit its service area to Siskiyou County, California, as we had requested. We have received a copy of the Bill that reflects that limitation of service area.

Ruffey Rancheria's interaction with Redding Rancheria has been a model of inter-tribal communication and cooperation, and we look forward to many more years of cooperation with it, on matters of mutual concern.

The tragic and disgraceful era of federal termination of Indian Tribes has ended, and the majority of California Rancherias have now been restored. We believe that it is time for our good neighbor, the Ruffey Rancheria, to be restored to federally recognized status, and accordingly we support the Bill restoring the Ruffey Rancheria without affecting any tribal rights in Shasta County. We notice that the Bill now provides protection for the Quartz Valley Rancheria and responds to some concerns raised by Oregon

tribes. It also appears that the Bill now includes some changes suggested in committee testimony by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior Tehsuda.

We appreciate Chairman LaMalfa's ongoing support of tribes and his efforts to resolve inter-tribal issues in the Bill. We look forward to continued co-operation with Chairman LaMalfa and the tribes of northern California in this and future matters of mutual concern. As part of this process we are also hopeful that the Ruffey Rancheria will reach out to the Karuk Tribe to discuss matters of mutual concern which the Bill raises—including membership and service area.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack E. Potter, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jack Potter, Jr.
Chairman, Redding Rancheria

cc:

Mark Spannagel, Legislative Aid to Chairman LaMalfa, by email to mark.spannagel@mail.house.gov
Rudy Soto, Legislative Aid to Ranking Member Torres, by email to rudy.soto@mail.house.gov