



City of Clearlake

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February 3, 2022

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi and Representative Thompson:

I am writing in support of the *Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act*, H.R. 6366, which would add the Lake County portion of Walker Ridge, known as Molok Luyuk or Condor Ridge in Patwin, to Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Ensuring that federally-recognized tribes can co-manage and steward the land with their federal partners and renaming it Molok Luyuk honors its cultural significance. The bill will protect this remarkable land from the industrial development that continues to threaten it and ensure the appropriate protection, restoration, and management of the area.

Condor Ridge, Molok Luyuk, is a remarkable ecological treasure commanding views of much of Northern California. The landscape supports many habitats including chaparral, grasslands, unique low-elevation forests of pine and cypress, oak woodlands, and unusual serpentine soils derived from ancient sea floor. Molok Luyuk is one of the most important areas of rare serpentine plant habitat in the state with a long list of documented species, including the beautiful blue Indian Valley brodiaea. It is also home to imperiled wildlife such as Bald and Golden Eagles, badger, and Peregrine Falcon among a long list of others. In addition, Molok Luyuk is a recognized wildlife migration pathway for a multitude of species, including Tule Elk, mountain lion, black bear, and bobcat. Molok Luyuk is steeped in thousands of years of rich history and is culturally significant to numerous Native American tribes. Proper management is necessary to preserve these unique lands and their resources while also ensuring continued recreation opportunities that provide an important boost to the local economy.

The addition of Condor Ridge, Molok Luyuk, to the Monument will preserve this irreplaceable biological and cultural hotspot and protect public enjoyment of the lands. We thank you for introducing the *Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act* and look forward to working with you to protect the ecological and cultural treasures of Walker Ridge.

Sincerely,

Dirk Slooten
Mayor
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