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U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

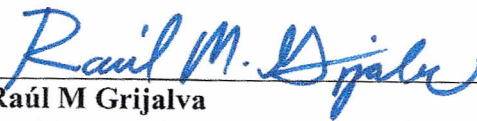
Dear Chairman Bishop:

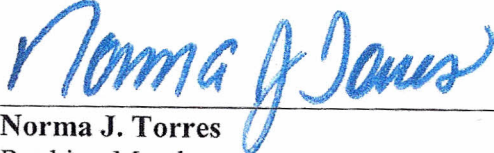
We write to respectfully request that the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee hold a second hearing on H.R. 3535, the Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017. Over a dozen tribes have written to us with this request, and we strongly agree that a second hearing would provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn about how the bill would affect numerous tribes, communities, and individuals within California and Oregon.


Since the first hearing on September 26, 2017, the Committee has received over thirteen letters, along with over 200 pages of supporting documentation, from five individual tribes, the Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association and Stand Up for California – all stating serious concerns with the bill as written. This is due to the fact that the neighboring federally recognized tribes were not contacted prior to the introduction of H.R. 3535, and were not consulted before the first hearing.

The questions that have been raised by these letters speak to fundamental issues that impact the rights and resources of many diverse interests, and these communities' concerns should be brought to the Committee. A second hearing would address these important issues, and would ensure that tribal restoration is a transparent, historically accurate, and accountable process.

Sincerely,


Raúl M Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources


Norma J. Torres
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska
Native Affairs


Jared Huffman
Vice-Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources