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Karuk Tribe

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HAPPY CAMP, Calif.-

June 22, 2022, the Karuk Tribe's *Katimiin and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (KASL Act)* was introduced in the Senate by Senator Alex Padilla and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

"It's a great day for the Karuk Tribe. We are one big step closer to protecting our culture and religion for generations to come. We truly appreciate the support from Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein," said Karuk Chairman Russell 'Buster' Attebery.

The KASL Act directs the transfer of approximately 1,000 acres from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Interior to be held in trust for the Karuk Tribe. The KASL Act would re-establish the Karuk Tribe as the steward of these sacred landscapes. The lands in the KASL Act straddle Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties in California and include a variety of sacred spaces where world renewal ceremonies such as the First Salmon Ceremony and Jump Dance take place.

The KASL was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Jared Huffman (D -San Raphael) earlier this year. The Karuk Tribe has provided documentation of support for the KASL Act from Tribes, organizations and individuals who would like to see an increase in these types of sacred land back opportunities for Tribes across the Nation.

"We brought forward a sacred lands bill to begin the healing process for our people. While we have continuously performed our ceremonies since time began, we sometimes faced interruptions or were denied access to our sacred areas. With the passage of the KASL we will never suffer such intrusions on our religious practices again. We are excited that our families will have the opportunity to reconnect to this incredibly spiritual place" said Josh Saxon, Executive Director.

The Karuk Tribe is encouraging lawmakers to schedule a hearing on the bill and return these lands to the Karuk *áaraas* (the people) as soon as possible.

The mission of the Karuk Tribe is to promote the general welfare of all Karuk People, to establish equality and justice for our Tribe, to restore and preserve Tribal traditions, customs, language and ancestral rights, and to secure to ourselves and our descendants the power to exercise the inherent rights of self-governance.

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