

November 12, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Natural Resources Committee Chair
United States House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:

You may be aware of Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' continuous disrespect of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. In spite of the tribal government's numerous requests, the Board has refused to recognize the tribe as a government and has routinely rebuffed the tribal leadership team's requests to meet on a government-to-government basis.

Throughout the U.S., Native American tribes experience government-to-government relations at the federal, state and county level. The message comes through loud and clear that Native American tribes *are* governments and should be treated as such. But based on recent votes by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, the county simply doesn't understand that the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is tribal government.

More than two years ago the tribe submitted a Draft Cooperative Agreement to the county, hoping to discuss its Camp 4 land. Unfortunately, the tribe was unable to schedule a single meeting with the county.

At the August 20th Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting, Tribal Chairman Vincent Armenta asked, once again, to enter into a dialogue on a government-to-government basis with the county to discuss the tribe's Camp 4 project. But in a 3-2 vote, the Board refused.

I hope that you rise above the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor's disappointing position and support H.R. 3313. Show our community that you understand and respect tribal governments.

Sincerely,

Name:
Address:

cc: Congressman Doug La Malfa, 1st Congressional District of California
Congressman Anthony Cardenas, 29th Congressional District of California
Congresswoman Lois Capps, 24th Congressional District of California
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein