

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:

I am writing to you today to express my opinion on the newly introduced legislation for Camp 4 land: H.R. 3313. This bill would take approximately 1,400 acres into federal trust on behalf of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. I am looking forward to the day the bill is passed.

At one time, the territory of the Chumash people extended from Malibu to Paso Robles – a 200-mile coastal stretch of land. Relegated to 99 acres in a creek bed of Santa Ynez, the tribe has made the most of their land.

The Camp 4 land is located on the Chumash Highway, less than two miles from the tribe's Santa Ynez Reservation. The land is central to the Santa Ynez Chumash original territory and is historically significant to the tribe. To know that their ancestors lived, worked and played on this land thousands of years ago gives special meaning to this property.

The history of this land is historically linked to the tribe through their ancestors. It's rooted in their history, their heritage and their happiness about who they are as a tribe.

It was a significant milestone in the tribe's history when the tribe purchased Camp 4 and brought a portion of their ancestral land back. It would be an even greater milestone the day H.R. 3331 is passed and places the Camp 4 land back under the jurisdiction of the tribe.

Please consider supporting this important legislation.

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